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17 August 1982

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GENERAL ERSHAD SPEAKS ON DOMESTIC POLICIES

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 14 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Khulna, July 13: The Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, said here today that the present Government was giving maximum stress on the development of villages where 90 per cent of the country's population lived, reports BSS.

Addressing a cross-section of people, he said that an amount of Taka 1,400 crore had been allocated to the agriculture sector and rural-based projects in the current fiscal year. The amount, which constituted 48 per cent of the total budget allocation for this year was double the allocation made in any previous year he pointed out.

Gen. Ershad said that the shortfall in food production had to be overcome and "we have to reduce our dependence on foreign assistance to the minimum".

The CMLA said "We must give up the habit of bagging from foreign countries and try to depend on our own resources to keep the prestige of the nation high." For this, "we have to make sacrifice and share poverty with all".

Gen. Ershad said that the hardship caused to the people due to a slight rise in the prices of kerosene oil and fertilizer could not be avoided. Despite rise in the prices of these commodities, the government will have to provide subsidies on them, he added.

The annual subsidy on fuel alone amounts to Taka 332 crore which, he said, "is too heavy a burden on our exchequer to bear."

Restructuring

Gen. Ershad said the task of restructuring the country economically, socially and morally is a gigantic one and expressed his firm belief that with the active co-operation of the people and through dedicated work they will be able to attain that goal.

He said the Government has launched a crusade against rampant corruption which has been eating into the vitals of the nation.

The CMLA said High Court benches have been set up at divisional level to bring justice nearer to the people.

He said criminal laws have been suitably amended for quick dispensation of justice and civil laws are being amended with the same end in view he added.

Earlier addressing the troops and officers at Jessore Cantonment, Gen. Ershad said that the main task of the Armed Forces is to defend the country and for this they have to undergo continuous training.

Gen. Ershad said to achieve the objectives of building the country on a strong economic footing they have to work hard with sincerity and dedication to prove themselves worth of the trust reposed on them by the people.

The CMLA went to the training field to see the progress of the training and evinced keen interest in their training. He also went round different units.

At Khulna Gen. Ershad laid the foundation stone of a Jame Mosque at Alia Mad-rasha premises.

He also visited the local office of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad and gave a patient hearing about the problems of the freedom fighters.

The Minister for Education and Religious Affairs, Dr A Majeed Khan, GOC, 9th Division and ZMLA, Zone "A" Maj. Gen. Abdur Rahman and GOC 55th Division and ZMLA, Zone "E" Maj. Gen. K M Abdul Wahed accompanied the CMLA.

CSO: 4220/7656

BANGLADESH, WORLD BANK SIGN CREDIT AGREEMENTS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Washington, July 6:—Bangladesh and the World Bank signed here on June 30 two credit agreements for a total of 132 million US dollar worth soft loan for Bangladesh, says a PID handout.

One agreement was for Ashuganj Power Project for 92 million dollar and the other for Rural Electrification Project for 40 million dollar.

The credit for Ashuganj Power Project will support a 328.4 million dollar project aimed at helping the country to meet the increased demand for power upto 1990 while the Rural Electrification credit will support the second phase of government's Rural Electrification programme and will finance the expansion of distribution networks in seven cooperative areas near Dacca, Faridpur, Noakhali Chittagong Khulna Barisal and Kushtia.

The Bangladesh Power Development Board which is responsible for project implementation will undertake the expansion of the existing stream power plant at Ashuganj through the addition of two steam gasfired units of 150 megawatts each to provide additional base load capacity. The credits are 50 years including 10 years of grace period. They carry no interest but bear a small annual service charge of 0.5 per cent on the undisbursed balances of the credit and 0.75 per cent on the disbursed balances.

It may be recalled here that the World Bank (IDA) commitment of funds for Bangladesh during the last fiscal year ending on June 30 1982 stands at 391 million US dollars.

CSO: 4220/7645

BANGLADESH

CANADA PROVIDES GRANT FOR WHEAT PURCHASE, SHIPMENT

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Canada will provide Bangladesh a grant worth about Taka 60 crore for purchase and shipment of wheat reports BSS.

A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed on Tuesday at the External Resources Division office.

According to a Press release Kazi Fazlur Rahman Secretary External Resources Division Ministry of Finance and Mr. Arthur R. Wright Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding.

It said under the memorandum the Government of Canada has agreed for the eleventh consecutive year to provide the Government of Bangladesh with a grant for the purchase and shipment of wheat.

This year's grant valued at 30 million Canadian dollars (60 crore Taka) will provide approximately 100,000 metric tons of wheat and will bring Canada's total food allocation to Bangladesh since independence to 420 million Canadian dollars. Shipments are expected to arrive between August and November 1982 and will for the most part be used in the Government of Bangladesh's public distribution system. A portion of the shipment has however been earmarked for the vulnerable group feeding and food for world programmes.

The High Commissioner stated that while Canada was continuing her commitment to the provision of food aid in Bangladesh it was hoped that Bangladesh would shortly achieve its national objective of food self-sufficiency.

CSO: 4220/7643

MISAPPROPRIATION ON RELIEF WHEAT UNCOVERED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) recovered an estimated amount of Taka 170 crore during the fiscal year 1981-82 under its intensive efforts to recover the outstanding loans. The bank recovered Taka 131.08 crore in 1980-81.

The outstanding loan stood at Taka 420.93 crore till March 1982 which indicates an increase of Taka 52.61 crores over the outstanding loans of Taka 368.32 crores in June 1980.

During the period under review the total disbursement of loan is likely to exceed the target. The target was set for disbursing Taka 270 crores during 1981-82 as against which the real disbursement was estimated to be Taka 273 crores. According to economic survey for the year 1981-82 the bank sanctioned loans amounting to Taka 195.60 crores during the first nine months as against Taka 216.02 crores sanctioned in 1980-81. With the expected disbursement of Taka 77 crores during the last three months of the last financial year the total loan sanctioned during last year stands at Taka 273 crore.

The primary functions of BKB is to finance different farm activities, raising of crops and development of horticulture and fishing. The bank also provides credit for storage, processing and marketing.

The bank dispensed credit through short term, medium term and long term loans. The Krishi Bank has also undertaken normal functions of a commercial bank.

The huge outstanding loan of Taka 420 crores is mainly due to lack of initiative and drive by the field level officers. Besides most of the loans advanced to the farmers were utilised for unproductive purposes due to lack of proper supervision. Till today a big chunk of the BKB loan is being used by the illiterate farmers for unproductive purposes. Therefore, it has been recommended by the experts that Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other commercial banks should introduce supervised credit in the rural areas to augment farm productivity.

CSO: 4220/7645

MISUSE OF AGRICULTURAL LOANS BY FARMERS REPORTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] One of the biggest misappropriation scandals in the country's history in which the state has been defrauded of about 9,62,000 maunds of G. R. (Gratuitous Relief) wheat valued at approximately Tk. eleven crore fifty four lakh and forty thousand only has been unearthed by the Special Martial Law Investigation Cell, appointed recently by the Zonal Martial Law Administrator Zone-A, Major General Mohammad Abdur Rahman, PSC, reports BSS.

About 40 persons including the ADC (Relief), Dacca Mr. AEM Abdul Latif, senior officials of the Relief Department, a Section Officer of the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation Chairman and Secretaries of non-locals (Beharis) relief camps in Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Adamjeenagar and others are involved in the case.

Trial of the accused persons including Mr. Abdul Latif, ADC (Relief), Mr. Abdul Khaleque, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Dacca Mr. Najibul Islam Khan, Section Officer Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation, and others started on Tuesday before the Summary Martial Law Court No. 2, Zone-A at the Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dacca, headed by Lt. Col. M. Ameerul Islam Engineers.

The accused persons were produced before the court on Tuesday. They have been charged under ML/R-11 and 9 of the Martial Law Regulation No. 1 of 1982 for corruption, criminal misconduct and misappropriation and abetment of these offences.

The fact of the case briefly is that a monthly quota of 21,086 maunds of wheat had been allotted for the six relief camps housing non-locals (Beharis) in Dacca city against a total of 2,35,577 units (cardholders). But on spot verification it is now found that only about 73,000 units (genuine card holders) are in existence in these camps.

The quota allocation of G. R. wheat for the camps functioned from 1976 onwards. In January, 1981 the quota was reduced by 20 pc. In May and June 1982, accused Mr. Latif, the ADC (Relief) constituted six teams each headed by a Magistrate ostensibly to screen out false cards of the non locals. But these teams held superficial local enquiries and in order to cover up their misdeeds showed a partly reduced number of cards that is 2,20,033 units in place of the old figure of 2,35,577 units although Mr. Latif knows that this reduced number of 2,20,033 units is also highly inflated as it contained huge number of bogus and fictitious names. Spot verification have now revealed that approximately 75,000 units of genuine card holders are in existence in these camps. A test survey, held by

the Special Martial Law Investigation Cell at Section XII, Mirpur, Block E revealed that 1170 application forms consisting of 6000 units were all fake.

In this way by showing false distribution against non-existent persons the accused in collusion with each other, misappropriated about 9,62,000 maunds of GR wheat valued approximately at Tk. 11,54,40,000.

The case was investigated by the Special Martial Law Investigation Cell, headed by Major Shamsul Haque on a complaint received by the ZMLA Zone-A office against Mr. Mustaq Ahmed Secretary Non-Locals Relief Committee, Section XII, Mirpur, Dacca that the said Mustaq Ahmed had misappropriated G R wheat for non-locals by preparing false master rolls and showing fictitious distribution of G R wheat.

The special cell collected relevant documents from different offices and held spot enquiries to find out the correct number of genuine cards. They found existence of huge number of bogus ration cards in the name of fictitious persons in Mirpur Section X, XI, XII Mohammadpur Geneva Camps A and B and also at Adamjeenagar non-locals relief camps.

One method of producing false and fictitious ration cards for the non-locals resorted to by the accused persons, was that thumb impression of one and the same person were put against a large number of similar or different names in the master rolls. The fingerprint expert found that this practice had been widespread. Besides cards of a large number of persons who had long ago left the camps were found still in existence and used for the accused persons for the purpose of misappropriation of the G. R. wheat.

Investigation has revealed that at one stage the accused ADC (Relief) Mr. A. Latif and accused Section Officer Mr. Najibul Islam Khan received a bribe of Tk. 65,000 only from the Secretaries of the non-locals relief camps for issuing sanction letter and delivery order in respect of four months' suspended quota of wheat weighing about 73,552 maunds for the period September-December, 1980.

It was also found that, among others the accused ADC (Relief) Mr. Latif, accused District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer, Dacca Mr M. A. Khaleque and the accused Chairmen of the ad-hoc committees supervising the distribution of G. R. wheat to the camps (Assistant Commissioners) used to receive Tk. 10,000 each and the Lifting Officer and the Head Clerk of the Relief Section of the Dacca DC's office, Tk 5,000 each as monthly payment.

Investigation in the case was completed on 16-6-82 and charge-sheet submitted on 19-6-82.

Thirty-six accused persons have been taken into custody so far. Three persons are absconding. One accused person has been granted bail on grounds of ill health.

CSO: 4220/7645

STATISTICS ON FOREIGN AID THROUGH JUNE 1982 GIVEN

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Foreign aid disbursements to Bangladesh in the post-independence period till June '82 total led 8.91 billion US dollars. The highest amount of such disbursements came in the form of non-project assistance, the share of which stood at 39.9 per cent. Project aid disbursements during the period under review were 2.87 billion US dollars which was 32.2 per cent of the total aid disbursements. Food assistance with its share in the aggregate level of disbursements at 27.9 per cent amounted to 2.48 billion US dollars.

The grant component in the foreign aid disbursements amounted to 52.18 per cent of the total amount. The rest of the disbursements i. e. 47.82 per cent of the total assistance were received in the form of loans.

The disbursement level at 8.91 billion US dollars during the period under report stood at 69.15 per cent of the total external aid commitments at 12.89 billion dollars received by the country from December 17, '71 to June 30 82.

The trends in external aid disbursements show that a higher proportion of aid was received by the country in the initial years after the independence in the form of grants. In 1972-73, the component of grant was 88.22 per cent of the total aid disbursements at 551.4 million US dollars for that particular year. The share of grant over the recent years had varied from 52 per cent to 56 per cent of the total aid disbursements. Thus, out of 1.16 billion US dollars disbursed as foreign aid in 1981-82, the grants amounted to 642.5 million dollars which was 55.39 per cent of the total amount.

Though the share of grant in total aid disbursements had shown a relative decline in percentage terms during the recent years as compared to the situation in the early seven ties, the volume of grants in absolute terms had shown a marked improvement due to the substantial rise in total aid disbursements over the recent years. The external aid disbursements average 1176 million US dollars per year during the period from 1979-80 to 1981-82 as against 638 million US dollars per year during the period from 1972-73 to 1974-75.

As far as the sources of foreign assistance are concerned, Bangladesh had so far received most of the aid from the DAC countries. Total aid disbursed from these

countries till June '81 amounted to 4.29 billion US dollars of which grants totalled 2.51 billion U.S. dollars and loans, 1.77 billion dollars. This total disbursement from the DAC countries also included loans made before liberation and for which the liability has been accepted.

The multi-lateral agencies funnelled 2.18 billion dollars as aid disbursements to Bangladesh till June, '81. This amount included 948 million dollars as grants and the rest as loans.

The total disbursement of foreign economic assistance from OPEC countries stood at the level of 509.6 million US dollars till June, '81. This comprised an amount of 287.3 million as grants and the rest of the amount as loans.

The aid disbursements from the centrally planned countries till June '81 amounted to 326.9 million dollars of which 41.6 million dollars came in the form of grants and 285.3 million dollars as loans.

CSO: 4220/7645

RESTRAINTS HINDER REINVESTMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 12 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Foreign companies involved in production in Bangladesh have been allegedly facing various constraints across the path of reinvestment of their capital.

Rigid price control, irrational tax rates and bureaucratic tangles are identified by them as main factors hindering the foreign companies' reinvestment for expansion of their factories and setting up of new industrial units in the country.

Despite the Government policy to encourage investment and reinvestment by the foreign entrepreneurs positive response has not yet been received from them. The lack of enthusiasm is attributable to the anachronistic policy of the previous governments in respect of the industrial policy.

Talking to The New Nation the outgoing Managing Director of Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) Mr. R. W. Keast observed "we are left with an amount of profit too inadequate to undertake new projects."

According to him, the poor profit margins have been serving as disincentives for fresh investment by the old and new foreign companies. He said, "our profits are not at a satisfactory level to finance the additional working capital required each year in an inflationary situation."

Last year an investors' forum

was sponsored by the Ministry of Industries at Dacca with a view to attracting the foreign entrepreneurs to set up industries in Bangladesh independently or under joint venture. A good number of offers were received, but due to bureaucratic tangles most of them have meanwhile lost interest for the contradictory policy of the former governments to provide incentives to them.

According to an accounts report, the BTC earned in 1981 approximately Tk. 220 crore, out of which Tk. 152 crore was excise duty on cigarette and tobacco constituting percent of the total national revenue. After deduction of all other expenditures the company made profit of Tk. 1.96 crore, i.e., the after-tax profit ratio to turnover for 1981 was 1.8 percent while its fixed and current assets amount to Tk. 41 crore.

The British-American Tobacco Company holds 65.9 percent of BTC shares and the balance shares are mostly owned by the Government of Bangladesh.

The dividend of BTC for 1981 was Tk. 1.80 crore. The foreign shareholder after payment of dividend tax of 10 percent got approximate profit of Tk. 1.07 crore.

Mr. Keast stressed the need for rationalizing the cigarette excise structure and withdrawal of rigid price control on cigarette manufacturers.

He said "price control on cigarette does not protect the consumers, if that is its main aim. The traders always take advantage of a short supply situation and premiums on brands will develop. The losers in such a situation are the consumers who pay more for their products and the Government is to lose revenue while the manufacturers' profit margins are squeezed in certain cases."

It may be pointed out that there has been a gradual withdrawal of price control on some of the items over the past years. The appraisal mission of the eleventh import programme credit recently proposed to the Bangladesh Government to lift price controls on bulbs, cigarettes and bicycles by next August.

CURRENCY VALUE ERODES OVER 300 PERCENT SINCE 1969

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quasem]

[Text] The Taka value eroded by about 155 per cent since independence and by 330 per cent since 1969-70, according to official statistics.

Consequently, growing import bills and piling debt burden have forced the economy to a state of stupor—not being anymore able to distinguish the real from the unreal.

The exchange rate of Taka in terms of dollar and pound sterling recorded an almost unprecedented depreciation.

Though the Government has been trying to follow a realistic exchange rate policy from long, since interception by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, these twin factors forced the Government to undergo vigorous depreciation of taka pursuing the monetary measures as prescribed by the two world organisations.

To make a realistic approach Bangladesh introduced flexible exchange rate policy in April 1976. Due to frequent fluctuation in the exchange rate of some major foreign currencies, Bangladesh shifted towards the basket method which is calculated upon the weighted average of the some major world currencies.

The basket method has been introduced from August 1979, but it has not been proved effective.

Under the flexible exchange rate arrangement the rate of dollar in terms of taka has remained stable and moved from Tk. 15.02 to Tk. 15.61 per dollar during the three years period. But a marked deterioration has been recorded under the basket method, which is partly due to imported inflation.

The rate of taka in terms of dollar fell from TK 16.01 per dollar in September, 1979 to Tk 20.63 per dollar in January, 1982. The rate now stands at more than Tk. 22 manifesting a devaluation of nearly about 35 percent since the introduction of the basket method in September, 1979.

The exchange rate of pound sterling in terms of taka also depreciated at the same rate. It depreciated from Tk. 25.63 in December 1976 to Tk. 38.53 in January 1981. But since January, '82 the rate further has moved up to 38.47.

Due to this continuous devaluation of taka the cost of imports has been multiplied. Though the Government is showing the achievement of target in terms of local currency, the credit, in fact, largely goes to the devaluation. In terms of importable items it would lag far behind as the import price has gone up.

But no visible change was recorded in the export proceeds of the country. Even the physical target of the exports in last two years was not achieved even after the appreciable devaluation of taka value.

Difficulties are also being faced by the investors, who are receiving assistance from Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha. Due to depreciation the repayment capacity has fallen for which the Government may draw a scheme to provide debt relief.

Besides in the external front the foreign liabilities have increased to the similar extent of depreciation. But no detail statistics are available in this regards.

Following this alarming situation policy makers think that present exchange rate of taka should be revalued otherwise the consequence might be devastating.

CSO: 4220/7647

PAPER REPORTS ACTIVITIES OF WORLD BANK VISITOR

Meetings with Government Officials

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The World Bank has assured Bangladesh of its continued support as well as of the donor community to the development efforts of Bangladesh Government, reports BSS.

The assurance was given by the visiting Vice-President of South Asian region of the World Bank Mr William David Hopper when he called on the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H M Ershad in Dacca on Wednesday.

During the discussion, Mr. Hopper indicated that there might be more resources available for the next year than what was available during the current year and naturally he would expect Bangladesh to receive a higher share.

The CMLA apprised Mr Hopper of the priorities of Bangladesh's programme and emphasised the need for a strong decision. He indicated that the balance of payment situation of the country remained difficult. He pointed out that while Bangladesh is making every effort to raise domestic resources and follow pragmatic policy in investment it needs a higher inflow of external resources to match domestic efforts.

The International Development Agency (IDA) an affiliate of the World Bank sanctioned a credit of 391 million dollars to Bangladesh this year which represents 15 per cent of the total IDA resources.

The World Bank Vice President congratulated the Government of Bangladesh on its bold and innovative budget and stated that for making the support of the donors effective it was necessary that domestic measures in the first instance were appropriate and effective.

Mr. Hopper also indicated that the President of the World Bank Mr A. W. Clausen may visit Bangladesh some time next year.

Finance and Planning Minister Mr A. M. Muhith and World Bank Resident Representative in Bangladesh Mr Roger Rowe were present during the meeting.

Calls on M. A. Khan

Meanwhile Mr W. D. Hopper called on Rear Admiral M. A. Khan DCMLA and Minister for Communications at his Secretariat office in Dacca on Wednesday morning.

Mr Hopper remained with the DCMLA for some time and exchanged views on World Bank assistance in the communication sectors.

Meets Obaidullah

Mr David Hopper also called on Agriculture Minister Mr. A. Z. M. Obaidullah Khan on Wednesday.

They discussed medium-term food production programme and small-scale irrigation projects. Agricultural credit and the mechanism to reach it to the farmers also came up for discussions.

They also discussed IDA projects in agriculture and water sector and future projects.

Petroleum Institute Planned

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The visiting Vice President of South Asian region of the World Bank Mr. William David Hopper has assured that his organisation would provide all possible help and Assistance to set up a petroleum institute in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

This assurance was given to DCMLA and Minister in Charge Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud while he had a discussion with him on Thursday Morning.

They discussed extensively on possible World Bank cooperation for newer power generation sources, improvement of transmission and distribution line and the reduction of system loss.

The DCMLA also conversed on the subject of continued survey and exploration, drilling new wells to improve upon the existing production of natural gas and possible assistance for the third extension of Ashuganj power station Rooppur nuclear power project, BMR of the oil refinery and extension of gas transmission line to the western zone.

Mr. Hopper also assured the DCMLA to provide possible assistance and co-operation to the ongoing World Bank projects. Particularly in rural electrification programmes.

Mr. Hopper indicated that Bangladesh would receive adequate assistance of the World Bank for her present pragmatic policy in all aspects of economic fields.

(Calls on Shafiul Azam)

Mr. William David Hopper visiting Vice President of South Asian Region of the World Bank on Wednesday called on Mr S. M. Shafiul Azam Minister for Industries and Commerce at the latter's Shilpa Bhaban chamber.

Mr. Hopper remained with the Minister for some time and exchanged views on World Bank assistance in the industrial development of Bangladesh.

CSO: 4220/7658

BAHAI ACTIVITIES SAID TO ENDANGER NATION'S SECURITY

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 15 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazi Montu]

[Text] Activities of the Bahai Community in Bangladesh have posed a threat to the national security of the country.

Their activities recently came under discussion at a high-level meeting of the Government upon submission of a report by an intelligence agency.

According to the report, the Bahai activities are dangerous particularly in view of their presence in the sensitive areas of the Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts districts.

It was pointed out in the report that the Bahaism had links with the Israeli intelligence service—Mossad and the intelligence services of two powerful western countries.

The Bahais are learnt to have been carrying on their activities in coordination with some of the aid and voluntary organisations operating in Bangladesh.

The headquarters and supreme council of the Bahais are situated in Akka of Haifa in Israel and its biggest temple is in Chicago of the USA. It is learnt that the Bahais for their activities against the poor Muslim countries receive considerable help from one of the major affluent countries of the western world.

Presently, the strategy of the Bahai Community is to reach, apart from other regions, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean islands, the West Indies and the small countries with minority problems.

Regarding the main objectives of the Bahai activities, the report said that like the Qadianis in the sub-continent and Nusairya in Syria the Bahais were working for their faith within the Muslim population in spite of their differences on certain fundamentals of Islam.

It may be mentioned that Qadianis in Pakistan and Bahais in Iran have been declared non-Muslim minorities.

It is gathered that Bahaism claims Bahauallah as new prophet and replaces all Islamic scripture with his "sacred book". It calls for a unified world language and a unified world government.

Bahaism propagates free sex. It is learnt to have influenced many Americans and Europeans through whom the creed has reached some Muslim countries. The Bahais, it is learnt, are trying to dominate certain Muslim countries economically by providing financial assistance to many nationals of these countries.

Bahaism originated in Iran and during the Shah regime the Bahais spread over many countries including Bangladesh. Bad days have fallen on them with the overthrow of the Shah regime as they have lost the patronage of the present Iranian regime.

According to the report mentioned above, like the Anandmarg and free Fason movements the number of people with allegiance to Bahaism is still very small, but movement has become very strong because of international support and financial resources they are getting.

Some western human rights organisations have been carrying on propaganda about alleged persecution of the Bahais in Iran.

Many Islamic countries have been watching with alarm the activities of the Bahai community and the Muslims of the World have meanwhile been warned of their designs.

A few years ago the Jeddah-based Rabetat Al-Aleem Al-Islami held a conference and in a resolution called upon the Muslim countries to ban the Bahai activities in their countries and take measures against infiltration of their books and all other literatures into the Muslim countries.

Before the Iranian revolution the country was virtually ruled, according to a report, by an oligarchy of powerful Bahais who controlled the armed forces, Savak, Iranian trade unions, commercial, and other organisations of Iran.

In Bangladesh, apart from their activities in Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Bahais have a centre at Nauratan Colony at Santi Nagar in the metropolis where a pretty girl is posted to maintain public relations.

The Bahai students from Iran studying in the Dacca Medical College are reportedly propagating free sex among the Bangladesh students.

Following the downfall of the Shah regime the Bahai students in Dacca were cornered by the Iranian Muslim students and there was a series of clashes between them.

Some of the Bahai students are reported to have married Bangladeshis to avoid their return to Iran where the situation has turned against them.

The law enforcing agencies of Bangladesh Government are learnt to have been asked to keep close watch on the activities of the Bahais.

CSO: 4220/7657

HUMAN RIGHTS SOCIETY OBTAINS PRISONER'S RELEASE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 7 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Article by Muzaffar Hussain]

[Text] "I do not know where and how they are today. I am not also sure whether they will be able to recognise me and accept me."

This is the question that is haunting Nurul Islam. He was released from Dacca Central Jail on bail on Tuesday after 10 years.

Nurul Islam, now 35, was talking about his wife Renu Ara, and his two sons Selim and Halim. Renu Ara was 22 and Selim and Halim were seven and five respectively when Nurul Islam was arrested on June 2, 1972.

"All these years, I tried in vain to draw the attention of the authorities concerned about my plight. I sent a number of petitions to the court through the jail authorities. All these petitions went unanswered and I continue to rot behind the bars". Nurul Islam recounted this pathetic story to me when I visited him at the residence of Md Manzur at 135/1, Water Works Road where he is staying now.

The plight of Nurul Islam drew the attention of the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights. They moved the bail. Nurul Islam was allowed to come out of the Dacca Central Jail at 1.30 p. m. on Tuesday.

Of the 10 years, Nurul Islam was kept at the Dacca Central Jail for nine years from June 1972 to 1977 and from 1979 onwards till his release). For one year he was at the Narayanganj Sub-jail (between 1977 and 1978).

Son of late Moinuddin Hawlader of village Brahmankhola under Sreenagar police station of Dacca district, Nurul Islam was a worker in the Hessian department of the Bangladesh Jute Mills at Kaliganj at the time of his arrest. He was charged with possession of unauthorised arms. A sten gun was recovered from his possession.

Nurul Islam told me that as a freedom fighter he had deposited his arms to the government. But later he found a sten gun while cleaning a pond and he kept it with him "to frighten my enemies".

According to him one Kalu Haji a ration dealer, was his enemy. He alleged that Kalu Haji used to sell rationed goods in black market. One day he and some of his friends chastised the Haji for his misdeeds. Since then the Haji became inimical. Nurul Islam alleged that Kalu Haji managed to influence police to implicate them in a dacoity case.

According to Nurul Islam, police arrested him and five others in connection with two dacoity cases. His associates were bailed out after seven days. They appeared before the court twice and were acquitted of the charges. On no occasion he was produced before the court, he claimed. However, he said that on several occasions he was brought out of the jail and sent to court hajat.

Nurul Islam said that he was the only son of his parents and from her wife's side also there was no adult male member who could move for his release.

He said that although arrested in the same case, his associates managed to get the case separated under Section 512 of the Cr. P. C.

Nurul Islam said that two cases were filed against him under Arms Act. In one of the cases, he was sentenced to suffer three months' rigorous imprisonment while in the other case, he was acquitted. He said that he was ignorant about the fate of the dacoity cases filed against him. There was still the fifth case against him under Section 54 (arrest under suspicion).

Nurul Islam said that his wife used to visit him in the jail for the first three years. But, later, she stopped visiting her and he did not know the whereabouts of his wife and sons for the last seven years.

In 1974, Muhammad Manzur, a tea stall owner of Chawkbazar was arrested under Special Powers Act. Manzur and Nurul Islam was known to each other and the latter requested Manzur to try to get his release after he was set free.

Mr Manzur told me that he tried to help Nurul Islam. Once in 1975 and again in 1977. But all his efforts proved useless.

The tea stall owner contacted the Society for Enforcement of Human Rights when he [word indistinct] to know that they were trying to secure justice for Nurul Islam.

Advocate M Anzad Ali, a member of the society who played a pioneering role in the release of one Anzad Ali, a member of the society who played a pioneering role in the release of one Ajmat Ali months ago, told the TIMES that the Society was trying to find out how many others were languishing behind the bars like Nurul Islam.

One jail official told the TIMES that they were simply custodian of the convicts and under trial prisoners. "We just carry out orders".

CSO: 4220/7646

COMMISSION EXAMINES ROLE, POLICY, PRACTICES OF PRESS

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, Chairman, Bangladesh Press Commission has appealed to all interested quarters to assist the Commission with their appraisal of the present state of the Press and their considered views on issues contained in the terms of reference of the Commission as well as with recommendations to help growth of a free and responsible Press in the country, says a Press release of the Commission.

The terms of reference of the Commission as set out by the Government are to enquire into the present state of the Press in Bangladesh and its growth and role with particular reference to national development and examine and make recommendation on:

- 1) Growth, ownership, management pattern and financial structure and management of the Press in Bangladesh;
- 2) Economics of the newspaper industry; printing machinery and spares, proper utilization and allocation of newsprint, other inputs and distribution system;
- 3) Legal provisions relating to the freedom of the Press; review of the Press laws of ensure freedom coupled with responsibility; the role of Press Council and further powers, if any, to be given to the Council;
- 4) Professional performance degree of objectivity and sense of responsibility, editorial institution; method of recruitment education and training of journalists;
- 5) Role of the Press in national development, self-reliance and in building a corruption and exploitation-free austere society;
- 6) Advertisement in the economics of newspapers and appraisal of advertisement policy;
- 7) Professional organisations related to the Press and their role;
- 8) Structure and management of news agencies with special reference to their sources of revenue, reception and transmission capabilities;

- 9) The imbalance in rural, urban information flow and growth of rural newspapers;
- 10) Perspectives of newspaper development in Bangladesh.

While the leaders of public opinion, men of scholarship, representatives of professions and heads of institutions are being addressed personally, the Chairman appeals to others interested in the growth of a free, healthy and effective Press for their views in writing on any or all the relevant issues.

The memoranda may be addressed within a fortnight to the Chairman, Bangladesh Press Commission, either in the office at Bangladesh Press Commission, New Parliament Building, Room No. 335, Block-NWEL 48, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dacca or the Residence at 500/A, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Road No. 7, Dacca.

CSO: 4220/7659

DACCA ABOLISHES GRAM SARKAR SYSTEM, TRANSFER DUTIES

Minister's Announcement

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 11 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] The government has decided to abolish the "Swanirvar Gram Sarkar" system, Minister for Local Government Mahbubur Rahman announced last night, reports ENA.

An executive order on abolition of the system will be issued shortly, the Minister said when talking to newsmen at his official residence.

The functions of the Gram-Sarkars have been "reassigned" to the Union Parishads, he said.

The Minister said the action has been taken because the Gram Sarkar was "too small a unit to be viable and effective to work with separate entity and autonomy. He said it has been clear from the public opinion as well as government records and experience that Gram Sarkar failed to carry out the functions assigned to it and its continuation might not deliver the desired result.

He said the tasks which the Gram Sarkars were assigned included augmentation of food production, expansion of mass literacy, control of population growth, maintenance of law and order arbitration for settlement of local disputes.

The Minister said all these functions comes under the purview of Union Parishads under the Local Body Ordinance of 1976. These functions were also allocated to the Gram Sarkar Parishads by the then government in 1982 through an executive decision.

He said this created duplication of functions or a kind of dyarchy in villages and resulted in 'conflicts, confrontation and clashes' between Union Parishads and Gram Sarkar functionaries. He said the government records gave evidences that Gram Sarkars fielded themselves as rivals of Union Parishads instead of working as complementary forces. They could not rise to the expectation of the people.

The Minister told a questioner that Gram Sarkars were set up in about sixty thousand villages covering all districts except Chittagong Hill Tracts and Bandarban. He said according to government records no public money was utilised for forming the Gram Sarkars but he said about 25 to 30 lakh Taka was spent from the public

exchequer for holding the convention of a Gram Sarkar- pradhans in April 1280 at Dacca.

The Minister told a questioner an amount of Tk 60 crore was extended as advance to Union Parishads and Gram Sarkars for procurement of rice from the respective areas as a price support measure. He said a substantial amount of the unutilised money from that fund has been refunded by the Gram Sarkar pradhans and Union Parishad members. He said the exact figure of the amount refunded was yet to be compiled from various districts.

The last date for refunding the unutilised fund for the purpose was June 15, he added.

Press Handout

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Government has abolished Swanirvar Gram Sarkars constituted under the Swanirvar Gram Sarkars (Constitution and Administration) Rules 1980 says a PID handout.

Government has repealed the Swanirvar Gram Sarkars (Constitution and Administration) Rules, 1980 in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 86 of the Local Government Ordinance 1976 (XC of 1976). The Swanirvar Gram Sarkars thus stand abolished forthwith.

With the abolition of the Swanirvar Gram Sarkars, all the functionaries thereof shall cease to hold offices and the functions of the abolished Swanirvar Gram Sarkars shall stand transferred to the respective Union Parishads.

CSO: 4220/7652

GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS USEFULNESS OF UNION PARISHADS

Local Government Minister's Speech

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mymensingh, July 7:—The Local Government Minister Mr. Mahbubur Rahman declared here today that the existing set-up of the Union Parishads would be allowed to continue till next election, reports BSS.

But if anybody among the existing Chairmen and Members was found to be corrupt and acting against public interest, he would be removed and the mismanaged Union Parishad would be superseded, he added.

Mr. Rahman was addressing a joint meeting of Chairmen and Commissioners of all Pourashavas, Chairmen and Members of all Union Parishads and district unit and thana unit Commanders of Muktiyoddha Sangsad at the public hall here.

He said that Local Government institutions were supposed to look after the welfare of the people of their own areas according to needs and "resources under a clear charter of functions."

Mr. Rahman said on expiry of the tenure on the present set-up of the Union Parishad Members and Chairmen and due to wide spread allegation of corruption malpractice abuse and misuse of power and resources and also in some case loss of public confidence, at one stage Government thought of substituting them by locally reputed good people both from outside and existing Union Parishad Members and Chairmen for inspiring and restoring public confidence in these institutions.

With this noble intention exercise was made. But the reports received and published in newspapers indicated desired selection could not be made due to paucity of time various considerations and constraints influence and manipulation and alleged use of other means, he continued.

Apprehension was also expressed that the way the election was being made there might not be any qualitative improvement of nominated Chairmen and Members and greater public interest may not be served better, he added.

Therefore the Minister said it was decided that the existing set-up would be allowed to continue to function till next Union Parishad elections or decided otherwise by the government.

Mr Rahman pointed out the provisions under the existing laws to revitalise the Union Parishads and also to make them corruption-free through purging Martial Law Ordinance may be promulgated if needed: to this effect he added.

He said that the honest and active Union Parishad Chairmen and Members had no fear of losing the office. Those present at the meeting promised their determination to rise up to the expectation of the people and to implement the policies and programmes of the Government.

The Minister pointed out that the leadership of local government institutions was highly significant for rural development in the country. In this connection he added that Union Parishads would be entrusted with more responsibilities for a balanced development and proper utilisation of local resources.

He also pointed out the government decision to decentralise the administration up to thana level for accelerating the development efforts.

He said that each and every step now being taken by the Government was rural based and village-oriented. There were massive development programmes through cooperative and agriculture in the rural areas where 85 per cent of the total population are inhabiting he added.

Mr. Rahman termed the Martial Law Government as the last resort for the country which must not be allowed to fail, he added.

He regretted that during over a decade the national leadership either failed to perform duty or lacked honest endeavour to materialise the coveted goals of hard earned independence.

He urged the people, particularly the leaders of local bodies, to take lesson from the past and to forge a strong unity for achieving victory in the second phase of the national war for economic emancipation.

Featuring the highlights of the second phase of the war, Mr. Rahman said that the Government of General Ershad had already waged Jihad against all forms of corruption exploitation inefficiency and social vices.

The meeting was addressed, among others by the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Ansar Ali Siddiqui, Chairman of Mymensingh Pourashava Mr. Motiur Rahman, Chairman Kashipur Union Parishad, Mr. Karamat Ali and District Muktiyoddha Commander Mr. Selim Sadjat.

Later addressing the District and thana level officials the Minister observed that they were not the rulers of the people. In reality they were fellow brothers and citizens of the country engaged in promoting their interest serving them with a sense of dedication he added.

The government officials would guide and help the people in nation-building activities he pointed out.

He further observed that the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Government depended to a great extent on the performances of the government officials.

He said all should forget the past style of "less work or no work." The time of remuneration without work is over and one must work hard and contribute more to get more he added.

He advised the officials to practise honesty sincerity austerity and develop sense of devotion to duties. He said almost every sector inherited by the present Government was in a mess which made the task harder and longer. He asked the officials to endeavour to accomplish the task with determination.

In the afternoon he visited the Zilla Parishad Pourashava IRDP Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies and Public Health Engineering offices.

He also inaugurated the Mymensingh Football League Tournament at the local stadium.

Checks on Parishads Urged

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 9 Jul 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Local Bodies"]

[Text] The government has given a strong enough hint that it would not tolerate any dishonesty, corruption and undesirable elements in the village level Union Parishads. Local Government Minister Mahbubur Rahman addressing an assemblage of office bearers of local bodies in Mymensingh on Wednesday said that the current set-up in the UPs would continue provided these were functioning in the public interest.

The reasons for the government's taking a very hard attitude towards the local bodies are genuine. There have been complaints in the past about misappropriation of resources, including relief goods, embezzlement of development funds by some chairmen and other functionaries of the local bodies and abuse of power by them. In some instances, Union Parishads became the tools in the hands of prominent individuals for their personal aggrandisement. The worst thing that could happen is that the continuous misuse of power by a section of local body chiefs had gradually eroded public confidence in the institution of Union Parishads itself.

Yet the local bodies can play a vital role in the government's overall programme for decentralisation and for taking the administration nearer the doorsteps of the people. Mr. Rahman has underscored that these institutions would play their allotted part and all such obstacles as inefficiency and graft will be removed, if necessary through rigid legal actions under the Martial Law. The government will do a creditable job by screening out the corrupt elements in the local bodies through vigilance and adequate measures for ensuring accountability from the people who run these bodies. The fact that some people have been found to spend thousands of taka to get elected to an office which carries no regular salary only proves that the local bodies do give a lot of pecuniary advantage to the people who have a genuine inclination towards selfless social service but are elbowed

out by the more moneyed citizens of the union who can muster not only finance but also necessary muscle to make the results of the election favourable to them.

The government's role would be to check such freely spending political aspirants during any future local body election and create grounds for the entry of people genuinely motivated to serve. These would make the Union Parishads more useful and dynamic.

Impervious to Sense

None can definitely say even on the 35th day today of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon how soon the fragile ceasefire there will lead to a peaceful settlement of the issues, old and new, in the war-torn country. There are still intermittent exchanges of fire between the invading troops and the Lebanese-Palestinian defenders and also all sorts of pressure and threat for the withdrawal of entrapped Palestinian guerrillas from Beirut—which the latter have stubbornly defied all these days. And by now it is clear that no amount of Israeli threat or even an assault on the Lebanese capital can achieve the criminal objectives of Tel Aviv. Rather, the naked aggression has further complicated the Middle East problem.

What is very apparent is that rulers in Tel Aviv must be forced to their senses for the cause of peace and for the benefit of all. People all over the world, including a good number of Israelis, have been condemning the invasion of Lebanon. Menachem Begin and his clique, however, continue to be belligerent and intransigent in their action and approach, as they perhaps thought that they would find some quarters somewhere. But the shelving of the US veto on last Sunday's UN Security Council resolution repudiating the "acts of violence against populations in Lebanon" might have disillusioned them. And the relinquishing of the office of the US Secretary of State by the Vietnam war veteran, hardliner General Haig must have been a shock for them.

Still, however, the Begin cabinet remains adamant. It has reportedly rejected the American proposal of Wednesday that the PLO may keep a political and military presence in Lebanon when its guerrillas leave Beirut. Anyway, Israel must be told firmly by all concerned that nothing short of a settlement on this line or so can find a solution to the present crisis. Lebanese national movement leader Walid Jumblatt has rightly pointed out that the removal of the Palestinian resistance from Beirut (which Tel Aviv wants) would be tantamount to political suicide, and "it is better for us and the PLO to die honourably in Beirut." On the other hand, the rejection by PLO Chief Yasser Arafat of the US offer for its marines to help evacuate the guerrillas does not negate the inclusion of US troops in a 'multi-national' peacekeeping force for a complete disengagement in Lebanon including the Israeli withdrawal from the country. In any case, Israel must withdraw.

CSO: 4220/7648

'CAPRICIOUSNESS' OF CANAL-DIGGING PROGRAM SCORED

Dacca THE NEW NATION in English 7 Jul 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Canal Digging in Perspective"]

[Text] The canal digging programme has consumed Taka 13 crore from 1979 to 1982. A newspaper report quoting a source discloses that last year Taka 10 crore was allotted for spades, baskets and maintenance of canals under the programme. Obviously, the wheat paid in wages has not been taken into account. But before one goes to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of 13 crore takas plus the thousands of maunds of wheat supplied by care and the administrative and organisational resources that have gone into the programme, there are more fundamental questions to be answered. The cost will also include the acreage permanently lost.

On principle we do recognise the irrigational necessity of canal-digging when it is viewed as a purely economic activity and is carried out under a well thought out plan, that is, when a rational approach is adopted to the programme. But the way canal digging was carried on as a personalised version of revolution by late President Zia and the party festivities that attended it had an element of high drama and, perhaps, capriciousness. That the foodgap widened from 12 lakh tons to 22 lakh tons precisely at a time when canals were being dug is a fact that cannot be missed. As the motive behind many canal digging projects was less agricultural than political, it is alleged that valuable agricultural land has been consumed in many cases. It is also alleged that canal digging was seen not as a means to an end but as an end in itself and, therefore, many canals have been abandoned after digging, no matter water flows through them or not.

We are told that till April 1982, 1269 canals were dug. No one will possibly be able to tell what is the target number because canal digging had not been done under a long-term plan and there had not been any survey. It is also relevant to ask whether any agency is monitoring and evaluating the programme—what happens to the canals some time after they have been dug, how are they maintained, whether local farmers are deriving any benefit. Unfortunately, while canal digging is too frequently linked with reports of alleged corruption and misappropriation of wheat, its positive impact on agriculture is yet to be proved. The number of canals dug has little significance unless the programme is assessed against the over-all agro-economic situation. It is time the canal-digging programme is put in perspective.

Being Nice to Green Life

The extension of XPL to 80 per cent will adversely affect the herbs and medicinal plants of the country, says a news report. The idea of the XPL extension is to allure business houses to export more. Encouraged by the prospect of having a generous cut of the nation's import trade, these houses would, along with jute and tea, etc. also naturally export more and more herbal plants. It is feared that unless something is done about it and soon, enthusiasm for earning money on the quick may lead to wholesale plunder of these rare and highly prized plants.

The report also quotes a botanist suggesting a remedy for the possible catastrophe—commercial cultivation of selected plants exclusively earmarked for export. If that means stopping export of flora collected from outside these commercially developed gardens, the idea is a sound one and merits early translation into practice.

But that is talking of future-organised systematic cultivation etc.; what will happen in the meantime? Besides, this kind of arguments have the danger of placing priorities on wrong things and approaches. Indigenous herbs and medicinal plants cannot possibly have only one use, i. e., export. The money earned through their export, a million taka as it is now or even tens of millions, is too paltry a price to pay for irreparable vandalism on such national scale. The first answer to the whole question must be banning altogether export of any plants other than established agricultural ones.

The natural endowments of this enviably fertile geographical wonder of a delta have never registered properly with the men charting the destiny of its people. No serious attempt has yet been made even to catalogue and describe exhaustively the flora and fauna of the land. The idea of preserving them and using the knowledge of them to enrich the life of the Bangladeshi people doesn't simply exist in the quarters that matter. Denudation and defoliation leading dangerously on to aridisation go on unchallenged. Little wonder Salim Ali could not help being sad and hurt by the goings on in this country.

The task plainly should be to organise a brigade of botanists (and then possibly of chemists, biochemists, pharmacists and even agronomists) and get them to collect samples of all the plants and ensure their preservation and propagation. The more useful of these can be passed on for commercial cultivation, primarily with a view to catering to the needs of the nation and not exporting. The basic medicines that we need can possibly all be had of these plants, provided the job of collection is followed vigorously by research and laboratory production.

If Ziaur Rahman's administration had distinguished itself by its cruelty to green life, why doesn't the successor government earn a well-deserved halo by caring for the same? After all, the mainstay of both our state and society is still agriculture or the courtesy extended by the benign green plants. And it will remain so for decades, if not centuries, to come.

CSO: 4220/7647

NEPALESE FOREIGN SECRETARY MEETS NEWSMEN ON DEPARTURE

Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] The Nepalese Foreign Secretary Mr. Jagadish Rana, on Tuesday expressed optimism that the third conference of the regional Foreign Secretaries scheduled to be held in Islamabad early next month would bring about "positive elements" so that a concrete shape could be given to the exercise of forming a regional forum for cooperation, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen before departure for Colombo concluding his three-day visit to Bangladesh, Mr. Rana said that during his stay in Dacca he primarily talked about the ensuing Islamabad conference. He said that his current visit which would take him also to Sri Lanka, Maldives and India was to hold consultation with the participating countries on the progress of work on the regional cooperation forum. The process of consultation will continue, he added.

The Nepalese Foreign Secretary said that he had very useful talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Mr. Ataul Karim on matters of mutual interest. He said that during his stay in Dacca, he had the honour to pay regards to the Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad and the two DCMLAs--Rear Admiral M. A. Khan and Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud.

Mr. Rana also referred to his meeting with the Foreign Minister, Mr. A. R. Shamsud-Dohu, and said he had exchanged views with him on bilateral, regional and international issues. "But I had primarily talked about the third meeting of regional Foreign Secretaries scheduled next month," he added.

The Nepalese Secretary expressed satisfaction at the talks between the two delegations yesterday. "We have discussed how best we could develop and re-inforce the bilateral relations between our two countries", he said.

Replying to a question, Mr. Rana referred to the last meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between Bangladesh and Nepal and said that both sides had set up a review group to monitor the progress in relations between the two countries.

Asked if the question of harnessing the waters of the Ganges came up for discussion during the talks, Mr. Rana said that no specific discussions was held on this issue. But he reiterated the policy of the Government of Nepal of fruitful

utilisation of the water resources of the region for the benefit of the people and said "we stand by this policy."

The Nepalese Foreign Secretary was seen off at the airport by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ataul Karim senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Ambassador of Nepal Mr. Gehendra Bahadur Rajbhandari.

CSO: 4220/7652

BRIEFS

FREEDOM FIGHTERS ORGANIZATION—Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad is the officially recognised organisation of the freedom fighters, a Government handout said in Dacca on Wednesday night, reports BSS. Of late, a few organisations were being called Muktiyoddha Sangsad creating confusion among the people as to which was the real Muktiyoddha Sangsad. In order to dispel doubts in this regard, the handout clarified that the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad with Mr. Zaker Khan Chowdhury, as its Chairman and Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram as Secretary General was the real and only Muktiyoddha Sangsad in the country which was recognised by the Government and entitled to use the Monogram of the Sangsad. All other organisations calling themselves Muktiyoddha Sangsad will henceforth cease to use the name and Monogram of the Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad. The handout said use of the name and the Monogram of the Sangsad by any organisation other than the real Muktiyoddha Sangsad was illegal and liable for prosecution. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 82 p 1]

ENVOY TO YUGOSLAVIA—Belgrade, July 7:—The new Bangladesh Ambassador to Yugoslavia Mr. Nazrul Islam presented his credentials to Mr. Peter Stambolic, the President of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Monday, reports BSS. While accepting the credentials the Yugoslav President expressed his warmest greetings and regards for the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H. M. Ershad and president Mr. Justice A. F. M. Ahsanuddin Chowdhury. Mr. Stambolic wished that the traditionally good and friendly relations between Bangladesh and Yugoslavia would further strengthen for the interest of the people of the two countries and also for asserting the principles and goals of Nonalignment. He said that Yugoslavia attached great significance to the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries particularly in economic field. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 82 pp 1, 8]

CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER—The Chief Martial Law Administrator has reappointed Mr Justice A. K. M. Nurul Islam the Chief Election Commissioner for another term with effect from July 8, according to an Election Commission Press release on Wednesday reports BSS. President Mr. Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury will administer the oath of office to the Chief Election Commissioner this morning (Thursday) at Bangabhaban at a simple function. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 8 Jul 82 p 1]

FORMER MINISTER SUMMONED—Mr. K. M. Obaidur Rahman, former Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism who is an accused in Motijheel P. S. case No. 94 (3) 82 under MLR 11 of MLR 1/82 has been directed by the Chairman of the Special Martial Law Tribunal No. 2 to appear before the Tribunal at the Nakhalpara M. P. Hostel Tejgaon, Dacca on or before July 20, 1982, reports BSS. If he fails to appear on that date, the case will be heard and decision taken in absentia and his movable and immovable property may be forfeited. It may be recalled that Mr. K. M. Obaidur Rahman was also earlier directed to appear before the Tribunal on or before July 20 in connection with the trial of another case, Motijheel P. S. Case No. 95 (3) 82. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Jul 82 p 8]

GAS FIELD DISCOVERED—A new gas deposit has been found at Kamta near Tongi, Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air Vice-Marshal Sultan Mahmud disclosed on Thursday in Dacca. Talking to "ENA" after a visit to the drilling site at Kamta the deposit was found at about 11,000 feet, below the surface. He said the pressure of gas at the site is reasonably high and added from the drilling and tests conducted so far the best I can inform is that the new gas deposit has the prospects." It will, however, need further drilling and studies to ascertain whether the deposit will be commercially viable. "We shall have to sink more money down the well and burn up more before I can assure you on our hopes," he said. The DCMLA said he has already given instructions to go for drilling at least one more well to ascertain the quantum of the deposit, and its commercial viability. He said the drilling of the well at Kamta was entirely conducted by Bangladesh experts and crew belonging to Petro-bangla. The drilling of the well at Kamta began about eight month ago. There were in all six prospective layers but only one of them was finally selected for drilling, he said. Apart from Kamta, there are about a dozen other gas fields in the country. These are Titas, Bakhrabad, Habiganj, Sylhet, Kailashtila, Feni, Begumganj, Kutubdia and Baniabazar. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 16 Jul 82 p 1]

DACCA-BANGKOK RICE DEAL—Bangladesh and Thailand signed a rice deal in Bangkok on July 14 says a PID handout. Under the agreement the Government of Thailand agreed to sell 40 (forty) thousand tons of rice to Bangladesh. The agreement was signed by Mr. Mohammad Ali Secretary Ministry of Food (Food Division) and Mr. Bajr Israsena Director General Department of Foreign Trade on behalf of their respective Government. It may be pointed out here that earlier another rice purchase deal had been signed with Burma who agreed to sell 35 thousand tons of rice to Bangladesh. The total 75 thousand tons of rice purchased from Burma and Thailand will reach Bangladesh by September 1982. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 16 Jul 82 p 1]

ENVOY IN PAKISTAN—Islamabad July 9—Bangladesh Ambassador to Pakistan Major General (Retd) Qazi Golam Dastgir presented his credentials to President Mohammad Ziaul Huq of Pakistan on Wednesday says a PID handout. He conveyed greetings from President Mr Justice A F M Ahasanuddin Chowdhury and the Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt General H. M. Ershad to the President of Pakistan. During discussions the Bangladesh Ambassador emphasised the need for greater economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Pakistan. President Ziaul Huq fully shared the view. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Jul 82 p 1]

FOREIGN MINISTRY REORGANIZATION--The reorganization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions abroad has been completed which will result in a total saving of about Tk. 2 crore and 25 lakh per annum. This is in addition to the saving of Tk. 5 crore already made after the initial reorganization in April this year following the promulgation of Martial Law. The reorganization has been carried out as part of the Government's policy of austerity and streamlining of the administration, says a PID handout. As a result of reorganisation the number of posts of officers at the headquarters has been reduced by 62 from 163 to 101, a reduction of 40%. In other ranks, except for the Class-IV employees, the number of posts has been reduced from 339 to 241, i. e. reduction of 26%. In the Bangladesh Missions abroad, 42 posts out of 117 posts in all ranks have been reduced which is about 25% of the total number. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 9 Jul 82 p 1]

RICE FROM BURMA--Rangoon, July 11: Bangladesh and Burma signed two separate agreements here on Saturday for sale and purchase of jute goods and rice, reports BSS. The agreement for sale of jute goods relates to the sale of gunny bags valued approximately Taka seven and a half crore. The agreement was signed by Qazi Azher Ali, Chairman, TCB, on behalf of Bangladesh and Lt. Col. Soe Nyunt, Managing Director, Myanma Export-Import Corporation (MEIC), on behalf of the government of Burma. A total of 35,000 tons of rice was purchased against the sale of above mentioned jute goods and partly in cash. The agreement for purchase of rice was signed by Mr. Mohammad Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Food, on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and Lt. Col. Soe Nyunt, Managing Director, MEIC, on behalf of the Government of Burma. The shipment of goods under these two agreements will be completed within two months. The two-member Bangladesh delegation headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Food arrived in Rangoon on July 8, and was accorded a cordial welcome by the high-ranking officials of the Ministry of Trade and Myanma Export-Import Corporation. They were also received by the Burmese Trade Minister U Khin Maung Gyi, at his office on July 9. [Text] [Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 12 Jul 82 p 1]

CSO: 4220/7653

REPORTAGE ON OUTCOME OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Sweeping Win for Zail

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 15. Mr. Zail Singh was today declared elected President of India. He will also be the seventh President of the republic and the first Sikh to hold that post.

Although his election was a foregone conclusion, he nevertheless scored a spectacular victory over his only rival, Mr. H. R. Khanna, nominee of the combined opposition.

Mr. Zail Singh secured 72.7 per cent of the votes against 27.3 per cent by Mr. Khanna. In terms of total value of votes, Mr. Zail Singh won 754,113 against Mr. Khanna's 282,685—a majority of 471,428.

This is the second highest majority in the presidential election ever. The highest recorded so far was Dr. S. Radhakrishnan—546,726—in 1962.

Of the 750 elected members of Parliament who exercised their franchise, Mr. Zail Singh had the support of 528 and Mr. Khanna 210. Twelve votes were declared invalid.

Mr. Singh also won the backing of a majority of the elected members of state legislatures except in Tripura and West Bengal, where Marxist-led governments are in office.

Mahatma Gandhi's wish to elect a Harijan as president is yet to be fulfilled. But the President-elect belongs to the backward Rangarhia community. He comes from a family of carpenters turned farmers.

At 66, Mr. Zail Singh can look back on a chequered career—freedom fighter, Sikh missionary, Congress volunteer, chief minister of Punjab and home minister of India.

Simple, unassuming, affable, Mr. Zail Singh possesses robust common-sense to make up for lack of high academic qualifications. His penchant for recitation of Urdu poetry helped many a time to defuse a tense situation in Parliament.

Soon after the election result was announced, Mr. Singh told newsmen that as head of state he would be fair to all parties and groups, forgetting the bitterness of the election campaign.

He said he would uphold the constitution and maintain the high traditions of the office like his predecessors.

The election result was announced by the returning officer, Mr. Sudarshan Agarwal, exactly at 4.15 p.m.—less than five hours after counting of votes began at 11.30 a.m.

Mr. Agarwal said that 58 votes (with a total value of 13,986) had been declared invalid. Rajasthan and West Bengal accounted for six invalid votes each, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura five each, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and U.P. three each, Kerala, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Orissa two each, and Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim one each.

Preliminary analysis shows that cross-voting was minimal and much of it went in favour of Mr. Zail Singh. Only in Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar, cross-voting registered double figures.

The chief election commissioner, Mr. R. K. Trivedi, formally conveyed to Mr. Zail Singh the results of the election, Mr. Singh will be sworn in on July 25 for a five-year term.

UNI adds: In Maharashtra, Mr. Zail Singh's score was 239 votes, having a value of 41,825, against Mr. Khanna's tally of 48 with the value of 8,400 votes.

In the 288-member house, the Congress (I) has 238 members.

Only one member in the state belonging to the All-India Communist Party did not vote in the election. All the votes polled were found valid.

Mr. Singh secured an overwhelming majority of votes in Andhra Pradesh, bagging 225 of the 286 valid votes, Mr. H. R. Khanna got only 31.

Mr. Khanna got all the votes committed to him—31 opposition votes with a value of 4,588.

Mr. Khanna could manage just a single vote in Nagaland. Mr. Zail Singh polled 54 of the 57 votes cast. Two votes were declared invalid.

In Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Singh secured 57 votes while Mr. Khanna could manage only 11 votes.

In the 76-member assembly, the Congress (I) has only ten members. But Mr. Zail Singh had the support of the ruling National Conference, which has a strength of 45.

There were no surprises in Kerala.

The voting pattern was along the expected lines with Mr. Singh getting the support of 76 United Democratic Front MLAs and Mr. H. R. Khanna taking away 61 of the opposition Left Democratic Front votes.

As anticipated, Mr. Khanna swept the polls in opposition ruled West Bengal, securing the support of 233 legislators while Mr. Zail Singh could poll only 53 votes.

As in West Bengal, the CPM ruled Tripura solidly voted for Mr. Khanna, giving him 51 votes. Mr. Singh got three votes.

In Himachal Pradesh, the contest was close with Mr. Singh claiming 35 votes and Mr. Khanna 32.

With the ruling AIADMK and the main opposition DMK voting for him, Mr. Singh secured 195 votes in Tamil Nadu against 35 by Mr. Khanna. In the 234-member assembly, the Congress (I) was only 31 members while the AIADMK has 131 and DMK 35 members.

In the Gujarat, Mr. Singh secured the support of 149 members in the 182-member assembly, although the Congress (I) party's strength is 147.

In Meghalaya, Mr. Singh had the support of 37. In the 60-member house, the Congress (I) has 18 members.

Mr. Singh's tally in Uttar Pradesh was 330 votes. The Congress (I) strength in the assembly is 320.

In Madhya Pradesh, the independents appeared to have voted for Mr. Singh. The opposition vote as committed went to Mr. Khanna.

In his home state, Punjab, Mr. Singh secured 99 votes. He had the support of the Akali Dal also. The Congress (I)'s own strength in the 117-member house is only 65.

It was clear from the Haryana results that Mr. Singh, with 54 votes, had secured some opposition votes also. In the 89-member house the Congress (I) has 51 members.

Mr. Singh got 130 in Orissa. The Congress (I) strength is 122.

Bihar gave 210 votes to Mr. Zail Singh. His party's strength in the 324-member assembly is 191 only.

Gandhi, Others Congratulate Zail

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Jul 82 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 15.—Mr Zail Singh, the Congress (I) nominee, was declared elected this evening as the President of India—the first Sikh and the first from the backward castes to be chosen for the highest office in the land—by an overwhelming majority of 471,428 valid votes over his rival and combined Opposition candidate, Mr H. R. Khanna.

In the straight contest for which the polling was held on Monday, Mr Zail Singh secured 754,113 value votes against Mr Khanna's 282,685.

The new incumbent at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be sworn in by the Chief Justice of India on July 25, a day after Mr N. Sanjiva Reddy retires at the end of his five-year term.

Immediately after the counting of votes was over and the result announced, Mrs Gandhi rang up Mr Zail Singh to congratulate him on his success.

Mr Zail Singh thanked the Prime Minister profusely and said "this is again a measure of your popularity in the whole country". The President too promptly sent a congratulatory message to Mr Zail Singh wishing him success.

At the venue of the counting of results in Parliament House "laddoos" were distributed by supporters of the Congress (I) as the final tally was announced by the returning officer Mr Sudharshan Aggarwal, who declared Mr Zail Singh elected as the seventh President of India, polling 72.7% of the total value votes. Mr Khanna, a former Supreme Court judge, got 27.3%.

The results were somewhere along the expected lines. The tally showed that the polling in favour of Mr Zail Singh had been 10% more than what it would be counting votes of the Congress (I) members and their supporters in the electoral college, belying the Opposition's hopes for "consci[rest of word missing] for the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy.

As far as he was concerned, he was a humble soldier of the freedom struggle, who had joined the battle as a volunteer and satyagrahi, giving him an opportunity to serve the people of the country and the princely States subjects. "We did not then even know whether or not we would be alive to see the nation nor did we expect and hope for rewards for the patriotism, so that when we reach the highest office, we think of the great patriots who gave their lives for the freedom of the country. We salute them all".

He said he was thankful to all members of the electoral college "who thought right to chose me for this high office". He was also thankful to the people of India, and hoped he would live up to the trust reposed on him particularly by the working class, the weaker sections, and socially, economically and politically backward sections, for it was their victory.

Mr Zail Singh interrupted his talk with reporters to receive a congratulatory telephone call from the Prime Minister. "Aap ko bhi mubarak" he replied.

Next was a message from the President, Mr Sanjiva Reddy, which was handed over to him by a presidential aide amid the endless stream of visitors, including the Communications Minister, Mr C. M. Stephen, the Orissa's Chief Minister, Jr J. B. Patnaik, the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr Ram Lal, and Central Ministers and Chief Ministers of many States.

A big shamiana had been set up outside Mr Zail Singh's residence on Racecourse Road, and there was a virtual stampede as he came out to greet well-wishers.

He was almost mobbed by photographers as he posed in front of a large-size portrait of Mrs Gandhi kept in the porch. An admirer threaded his way through the crowd to apply perfume on him. Bouquets and flower garlands were heaped in a corner and rosepetals were strewn all over the floor.

Congress (I) M.P.s and their supporters chanted "Indira Gandhi zindabad" as soon as the results were announced in Parliament House by the Returning Officer. They marched to Mr Zail Singh's house to congratulate him.

Felicitating the President-elect, Mrs Gandhi said: "The honour has gone to a veteran soldier of the fight for freedom and a man of the people". Mrs Gandhi added. "Being so close to the soil with his amiability, idealism and robust commonsense, Mr Zail Singh can be depended upon to serve the Constitution and the country with earnestness and dignity".

Among the first to congratulate the President was Mr Khanna, his rival. He drove to Mr Zail Singh's house, warmly embraced the winner and wished him success.

The reaction of the Opposition leaders was varied. While the Lok Dal leader, Mr Charan Singh, described Mr Zail Singh's victory as "a great misfortune for the country" and said "dark days are ahead", Mr Shahabuddin, general secretary of the Janata Party said "it is a victory of quantity over quality".

While the Democratic Socialist Leader, Mr H. N. Bahuguna, wished Mr Zail Singh "a happy stay" in his new office and hoped he would serve the interests of the nation without fear or favour, Mr Jagjivan Ram, president of the Congress (I), extended his congratulations to him.

Biographical Sketch of Zail

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jul 82 p 11

[Text] New Delhi July 15 (PTI). The life of the 66-year-old Mr. Zail Singh, 'Giani' to his friends, has been one of struggle, aspiration and success for 46 years.

Though artisan by caste with little to claim for higher education, Mr. Zail Singh has earned a rich, varied and extensive experience as a freedom fighter, politician and administrator.

Born in a humble home in village Sandhwan of erstwhile Faridkot State, now in Punjab, Mr. Zail Singh alias Mr. Jarnail Singh is the first Sikh President and the first person belonging to the backward class to get elected to the august office.

Born on May five, 1916, Mr. Zail Singh, the former Union home minister, shares a birthday with Karl Marx.

Mr. Zail Singh barely managed to get through matriculation before deciding that he would become a 'grathi'--a professional reader of the Holy Granth. His training to become one earned him the title of Giani, meaning the 'learned one.'

However, his brand of politics originated simultaneously with his religion, as a form of militant protest against the erstwhile ruler of the princely state of Faridkot. Inspired by the freedom movement, he challenged the Maharaja of Faridkot by founding the Congress Party in his domain.

In 1938, Mr. Zail Singh was thrown into Faridkot jail, where he spent five years.

From Prison to Power

It was at that early stage that Mr. Zail Singh established his links with Mr. Nehru, founding the Paraja Mandal and later running a parallel government to that of the Maharaja. He was often subjected to humiliation and torture by the police. Once the local police chief ordered that he be dragged through the streets of Faridkot with his hair tied to a jeep but, at the last minute, the drastic order was revoked.

From 1948 to 1952, Mr. Zail Singh served as revenue, then, agriculture minister in the first Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU) government. Soon after, he became president of the PEPSU Pradesh Congress committee and when PEPSU and Punjab state were merged into the single state of Punjab, Mr. Zail Singh found himself in the Rajya Sabha.

In 1962, Mr. Zail Singh fought, and won, an election to the Punjab legislative assembly and was promptly included in Pratap Singh Kairon's cabinet.

Unfortunately, he was forced to quit when the cabinet strength was reduced. Still, he has always cherished his relationship with Mr. Kairon whom he admires and often quotes as an example of a progressive and able chief minister.

Mr. Zail Singh had never in his entire political career switched loyalties or suffered a change of heart. His relationships with top leaders like Sardar Patel, Mr. Pratap Singh Kairon and Mrs. Indira Gandhi had always been smooth. His overflowing affability, good humour and humility helped him to ingratiate himself into the inner sanctums of power, in both Chandigarh and New Delhi.

A veteran freedom fighter, Mr Zail Singh always espoused the cause of common man. He was only 21 when he was arrested for his participation in the Paraja Mandal Movement in 1937 against the erstwhile rulers of Faridkot. The five-year imprisonment did not dampen his spirit and immediately on his release he launched the National Flag Movement in the state in 1946 with the blessing of Mr. Nehru and was arrested again.

Mr. Zail Singh was president of the Patiala State Praja Mandal from 1946 to 1948 and held the office of president of the erstwhile PEPSU Pradesh congress committee for two years.

After the state had a spell of Akalited coalition government, Mr. Zail Singh led his party to a resounding victory in the 1972 Vidhan Sabha elections and became the state chief minister.

Besides Mr. Kairon, he was the only chief minister to have the distinction of completing a full five-year term.

Mr. Zail Singh was the chief minister in 1977 when the congress government in the state dismissed by the Janata government at the Centre.

During the period Mrs. Indira Gandhi was out of power and in her struggle against the Janata government, Mr. Zail Singh gave her unstinted support.

In the 1980 Lok Sabha elections, which saw Mrs. Gandhi return to power with a resounding victory, Mr. Zail Singh was elected from Hoshiarpur parliamentary constituency and later appointed home minister.

During the last two and half years as home minister, Mr. Zail Singh had to tackle the vexed foreigners issue in Assam and the demand for Khalistan by a section of Sikhs in his home state.

Mr. Zail Singh's private life has never impinged upon his public one, according to all accounts. His son still helps to farm the family's 57-acres held jointly by him and his brothers in Faridkot.

The mud hut in which he was born still exists.

His wife, a simple and conservative woman, has seldom stepped out of the village and his three daughters, two of them qualified doctors, rarely visit him though he keeps in constant touch with them.

State-wide Voting Figures

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jul 82 p 11

[Text] New Delhi, July 15 (UNI). Barring West Benegal and Tripura, Mr. Zail Singh led his rival, Mr. H. R. Khanna, in all the states in the presidential election. The following chart shows the performance of the rival candidates in the states and in Parliament:

State	Mr. Zail Singh Votes	Value	Mr. H. R. Khanna Votes	Value
Andhra Pradesh	255	37,740	31	4,588
Assam				
Bihar	210	36,540	108	18,792
Gujarat	149	21,903	30	4,410
Haryana	54	6,048	35	3,920
Himachal Pradesh	35	1,785	32	1,632
Jammu and Kashmir	57	4,731	11	913
Karnataka	189	24,759	34	4,454
Kerala	76	11,552	61	9,272
Madhya Pradesh	251	32,630	66	8,580
Maharashtra	239	41,825	48	8,400
Manipur	50	900	10	180
Meghalaya	37	629	18	306
Nagaland	54	486	1	9
Orissa	130	19,370	15	2,235
Punjab	99	11,484	12	1,392
Rajasthan	154	19,866	40	5,160
Sikkim	24	168	7	49
Tamil Nadu	195	34,320	35	6,160
Tripura	3	78	51	1,326
U.P.	330	68,640	88	18,304
West Bengal	53	8,003	233	35,183
Parliament	528	370,656	210	147,420
Total	3,172	754,113	1,176	282,685

Invalid votes: States 46, Parliament 12.

CSO: 4220/7630

INDIA REPORTEDLY CONCERNED OVER PRC-USSR RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jul 82 p 12

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 17. The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, is reported to have hinted, during his private talks with some Western leaders in the course of a recent visit to Europe, that Sino-Soviet relations which hit the rock bottom during the seventies were slightly better now and bound to improve before the end of this decade.

It is not clear whether this observation attributed to him was only a casual remark made in the course of a routine exchange of views on other inter-related subjects, or a well considered appraisal of a more promising prospect for the future, indicating some degree of flexibility in China's own attitude.

In either case, Mr. Huang Hua's stray thought or pointed assertion has attracted a lot of attention in high Government circles in some of the European capitals in the context of their growing resentment against the U. S. attempts to block the mammoth pipeline deal with the Soviet Union.

Its coincidence with the exit of Mr. Alexander Haig, who strongly disapproved of the hawkishness of the White House establishment over this controversial issue, tended to encourage the European critics of the Reagan Administration to become opposed to the U. S. bid to dictate policy in an arbitrary fashion.

The Indian interest in the reported remark of Mr. Huang Hua centres on the possible Soviet response to the Chinese readiness to have a slightly more relaxed relationship free from recurring tensions and its inter-action on India's own dealings with the two communist giants, China and the Soviet Union.

It is India's own assessment that Moscow, too, is equally interested in moving away from the path of confrontation with China, even if the two countries can never go back to the early days of their fraternalism.

Reversal of roles: Hitherto, it used to be India's turn to keep on reassuring Moscow periodically that its readiness to normalise relations with China would not be at the expense of the existing friendship with the Soviet Union. Now in a strange reversal of roles, it may be Moscow's turn to assure India that it is not going to seek better relations with China at the expense of India's interests.

One of the major talking points during the Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union will be the kind of relationship that Moscow and Beijing might strive for, without prejudice to their respective positions, to avert the dangers of a conflict or even renewed confrontation with over a million troops massed along the borders on either side.

The current thinking of Indian Sinologists, such as there are in this country, is that if India has to arrive at some understanding with China on the border issue, it should be done in the course of the next few years before Moscow and Beijing begin to move near as a logical culmination of their mutual desire to avoid further tensions, even if an accord was not possible in the foreseeable future.

And starting from this premise, they want the current Sino-Indian dialogue to be carried forward to a more purposeful stage, so that the two countries could come to grips with the substantive aspects of the border problem.

CSO: 4220/7639

ANALYST DETAILS PROGRESS TOWARD TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jul 82 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 18.

The new Pakistan Ambassador to India, Mr. Aziz Piracha, is arriving in Delhi tomorrow to take up his assignment and set the ball rolling for an early resumption of the stalled Indo-Pak. dialogue on a no-war pact, before the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. M. K. Rasgotra, goes to Islamabad next month to discuss its modalities.

As one who has been Pakistan's Foreign Secretary till recently, Mr. Piracha comes to Delhi with a deeper insight into the current thinking of the ruling military establishment on Indo-Pak. relations. As such, he will be able to speak with greater knowledge of Islamabad's approach to the resumption of the dialogue.

The last letter of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to the Pakistan President, General Zia-ul-Haq, had more or less cleared the decks for resuming the thread of the earlier discussions, but it had also broadened, in the process, the basis for dialogue by dovetailing the no-war concept into a more positive proposition, for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Pakistani preference: The initial Pakistani preference was for a simple non-aggression pact, abjuring the use of force for settling Indo-Pak. disputes. But it has subsequently veered round at least half way to the Indian view that there is no harm in putting greater content into the no-war idea by enjoining the two countries to work together for peace and stability in the sub-continent either through a treaty arrangement or a simple agreement.

India's parallel suggestion for establishing a joint commission to provide an institutional framework for discussing the areas of cooperation, like increased trade, travel, transit and telecommunications, poses no difficulty in the sense that it has already been accepted in principle by Pakistan. The delay in setting up the joint commission relates primarily to the timing, whether it should be a starting point for negotiating a treaty of peace, friendship and

cooperation, or a logical follow-up of a no-war pact.

Non-aggression pact: When the Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. K. Natwar Singh, went to Islamabad last month as the Prime Minister's special emissary to deliver and discuss her letter to General Zia on the subject.

Mr. Piracha, then Pakistan Foreign Secretary, handed over a draft of the proposed non-aggression pact.

The draft indirectly sought to derive the no-war relationship more from the mutual commitment of the two countries to the principles of the U.N. charter than the provisions of the Simla agreement. The Government of India did not reject the Pakistani draft, but reserved its right to put forward a counter-draft at an appropriate stage in the resumed discussions.

Joint commission move: Meanwhile, the Indian draft proposal for a joint commission was handed over to the Pakistan Charge d'Affaires in Delhi for transmission to Islamabad to get at least one hurdle out of the way soon, if General Zia was really serious about an early improvement of Indo-Pak. relations. One of the first tasks of Mr. Rasgotra, when he goes to Islamabad next month, is to secure the necessary understanding on the establishment of a joint commission, before the two Governments come to grips with the more substantive aspects of the proposed treaty on peace and cooperation.

The Indian Foreign Secretary will leave for Islamabad on August 8 to attend the next official meeting of the eight South Asian States on economic cooperation. He will stay on for a couple of days at the conclusion of these talks to discuss Indo-Pak. bilateral issues.

No substantive discussions now: But the stage will not be reached for any substantive discussions on the proposed no-war pact or peace treaty for at least another two or three months until the right climate has been created. Though the rumpus over the intemperate Pakistani reference to the Kashmir issue in the

Human Rights Commission at the end of February last is now forgotten. For all practical purposes, the postponement of the former Foreign Secretary's visit to Islamabad in protest in early March to carry forward the no-war dialogue had certainly interrupted the time schedule and delayed the negotiations.

It is highly unlikely that any substantive discussions can take place on the no-war proposition till October at least, because of India's other commitments. The Foreign Secretary has a very heavy schedule for the next two months, since he has to accompany the Prime Minister on her visits to the U.S. and the Soviet Union and to the non-aligned summit, if it is held in Baghdad or elsewhere.

CSO: 4220/7642

G. K. REDDY DISCUSSES WESTERN VIEW OF INDIA

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] It is not uncommon for any society, dynamic or stagnant, to take a harsher look at its shortcomings under stress in moments of disenchantment with its leadership or disillusionment with its performance. A big polity like India, burdened with a heavy backlog of problems, tends to be rather over-critical of its imperfections, distorting its own image of itself as a developing nation.

In their race with time to make up for the lost opportunities, the people become painfully aware not so much of the great difficulties involved in keeping pace with their rising expectations as the inability of their leaders to live up to their promises. The result is that, in the heat of domestic controversy and confrontation, self-criticism takes the form of self-deprecation, often belittling the achievements and exaggerating the failures. It produces an inward looking attitude blurring the over-all perspective and promoting a feeling of nonfulfillment, even of betrayal at times.

Empty Rhetoric

In the absence of a coherent philosophy of governance, political parties manage to get away with their shortcomings by conjuring visions of success or generating fears of decadence to unite or divide the people to suit their more immediate purposes. Those who have wasted crucial years in empty rhetoric by blaming others for their lapses continue to pose as martyrs who had suffered for refusing to forsake their principles, while others who failed even more lamentably to put their power to any positive use revel in their failures, because they do not consider themselves accountable for their actions.

It is only an informed and assertive public opinion that can distinguish between impropriety and imperfection and can act as an effective check against a steady decline of political or moral standards in public life. The fact that the largely illiterate electorate, guided more by its own horse sense than reasoned appeal, had unseated powerful governments in successive elections has not prevented politicians from stirring up animosities and arousing raw passions for partisan purposes. The power of irrationality is still a decisive factor in Indian politics, since it offers enough scope for passing off any inadequacy as a lofty manifestation of inflexible devotion.

The political scene is so complex that it is possible for a carping critic to decry the country with some telltale facts as a tragic example of a great polity in disintegration. It is equally possible to take a more balanced view and project it as a dynamic society well set to make rapid strides with all its imperfections. It becomes difficult for a perceptive foreign observer to arrive at the right conclusions in the face of fierce internal controversy over the very fundamentals of its public values.

Distance & Detachment

But at the same time distance also can create a feeling of detachment in probing deeper into the Indian psyche and assessing the mood of its people. No student of Indian politics, whether Indian or foreign, can be completely free from some pre-conceived notions based on subjective considerations. What really matters in assessing the progress of a nation or grasping the aspirations of its people is a readiness to look at its problems through its own eyes to the extent possible to understand its thought processes and the rationale behind its attitudes.

It can be a rewarding experience even for an Indian to take a fresh look at the Indian scene from abroad, comparing one's own perceptions of the country's progress with what others think of it. The western world, lost in its pursuit of happiness, has neither the time nor the desire to take a sustained interest in Asia or Africa, but those who matter in shaping governmental policies or influencing public attitudes are reasonably well informed of what goes on there. A credible distinction has to be kept up between ignorance and indifference in assessing western attitudes.

The people by and large are quite sympathetic to the aspirations of the Third World even in countries with a colonial past, although they are only vaguely aware of the staggering dimensions of its poverty and need for rapid development.

In a sense India is seen as a focal point of the Third World representing in itself all the opportunities and challenges for orderly transformation in an atmosphere of freedom. It is no longer decried as a country incapable of governing itself, a society given by self-destructive social contradictions, with an unmanageable population growth rate. It has come to be widely accepted, on the other hand, as an illustrious example of a country benefiting from the mistakes of the past and all set to make rapid progress in the next two decades.

The greatest single event that has changed the image of India abroad has been the green revolution. There is widespread admiration for its success in solving its food problem within a span of just one generation. The progress made on the industrial front continues to inspire confidence, although one comes across criticism of the vagaries of India's restrictive regulations.

The achievements of the Indian scientists, especially in the field of nuclear technology and space exploration are seen as a measure of the country's advance towards the take-off stage, though concern is expressed about a possible diversion of this knowledge for military purposes at a later stage.

Capacity of the Elite

The massive Indian population is viewed as a mammoth human pyramid with some of the finest minds in the world perched at the apex and the bulk of the masses steeped deep in poverty and ignorance at the bottom. The real challenge in India is seen as a test of the capacity of the elite to utilise its skills and knowledge for galvanising the vast human reservoir at the bottom to develop the country's resources for the good of its people.

The personality of its head of government plays an important part in shaping global opinions about a country's performance. As a peerless moral tactician, Gandhiji created a worldwide awareness of the Indian freedom struggle. After Independence, Nehru gave the much needed international dimension to India's political ideals and social aspirations. But as one cast in a more controversial role and consequently caught up in a political maelstrom, Mrs. Gandhi tended to arouse mixed emotions combining a certain degree of concern with admiration.

A section of opinion abroad tended to glamourise her personality by describing her as the empress of India in the wake of the extraordinary skill she displayed in confounding her opponents at almost every stage, until she was overtaken by events. But now there is a more realistic appreciation of her national and international role, as a complex, hardheaded and imperious leader of the world's second most populous nation and, at the same time, an enlightened, dedicated and uncompromising champion of the Third World with a finely honed instinct for articulating their emotions.

The overall western impression of Mrs. Gandhi now is a very agreeable one evoking both respect and approbation. She is widely regarded as one of the world's most forceful personalities who is desirous to play a very important role in at least opening the way for the emergence of a more equitable international dispensation.

Estimate of Mrs. Gandhi

It has not gone unnoticed among people who matter in Europe that she has changed with the changing times and quietly shed the dogma by toning down her politico-economic doctrines by yielding to social compulsions. The Indira watchers in places like London are in no great hurry to jump to hasty conclusions about her place in history, since they would like more in terms of what she achieves on the home front than the imprint she leaves on the international scene.

It will take some more years for her critics and admirers to arrive at a balanced appraisal of her personality and performance. Her increasing involvement in international affairs followed by frequent globe-trotting trips has helped to protect India as a stable society going through orderly development, a country that is no longer stagnant and where things are moving to clear the way for a faster rate of growth through a better utilisation of its natural and human resources.

And the danger is that this new found faith in India abroad is also arousing some false expectations of large-scale liberalisation to open the doors for foreign investment. The Government should take timely steps to explain to all concerned

that what was being contemplated was a selective approach for increased foreign participation in high technology sectors and not all-round liberalisation. Nevertheless, the very talk of these new opportunities for foreign investment in India, whether selective or otherwise, will help improve the country's image and enhance its prestige abroad as an upcoming nation which will rank many of the industrialised countries of the west before the turn of the century.

[G. K. Reddy from New Delhi]

CSO: 4220/7632

INDIA

WORLD ENERGY MEETING PLANNED FOR DELHI IN SEPTEMBER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 82 p 8

[Text] Nearly 5,000 energy experts from all over the world are expected to attend the 12th World Energy Conference to be hosted by India in New Delhi in September next year, reports PTI. It is for the first time that the conference will be held in Asia.

Preparations for the conference are being made by a 22-member organising committee under the chairmanship of Mr T R Satish Chandran, Secretary, Ministry of Energy. Other members of the committee include experts in the field of energy from the central and state governments, and public and private enterprises.

The theme of the conference will be 'energy-development quality of life.'

The conference will examine the relationship between the development of energy and its impact on the quality of life. It will analyse the changes in social pattern which energy development or, alternatively, the failure to develop energy can bring, and assess how far the structure of society will be affected by a national energy policy.

The conference will also devote itself to exploring new techniques and technologies for exploitation and development of energy resources, management of energy system, and international collaboration and contribution to a global energy strategy.

The conference will be of special relevance to India in her present efforts to meet the growing needs for energy.

CSO: 4220/7643

PLO ENVOY SPEAKS AT DELHI MEETING ON LEBANON

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 82 p 10

[Text] Ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in India Faisal Aouidha on Monday described newspaper reports of the PLO waiting for 'mercy evacuation' as 'utter nonsense', and stressed that the Palestinian fighters would not surrender to Israel in Lebanon.

Mr Aouidha said that there were at least 40,000 armed PLO fighters in Lebanon, and they were ready to "lay their lives down for their just cause". Mr Aouidha described the western media reports of smaller numbers of PLO fighters as 'baseless propaganda.'

Speaking at a meeting organised by the Delhi Study Group and the Arab Cultural Centre, the PLO ambassador deplored the lack of solidarity shown to the fighting PLO by some other Arab nations.

However, referring to Syria's reported refusal to provide refuge to Palestinian fighters, Mr Aouidha said that this only reflected the PLO's own thinking. "We do not want to go from one place to another when our avowed aim is to reach our own country", he said.

Speaking about the conditions in war-torn Lebanon, Mr Aouidha accused Israel of capturing every man and woman of military age from the Israeli occupied territories. He claimed that no fighters had been captured.

Drawing attention to the blockade erected by Israeli troops around several areas of Beirut, Mr Aouidha said that almost 30,000 people were living without supplies of any kind.

Condemning the US backing to the Israeli aggression, the ambassador observed that the US was using Israel to liquidate the Palestinians. Israel had landed in different cities from the sea with the help of the US Sixth Fleet, and the F-16s, the cluster bombs. In fact almost everything that Israel was using to fight the war was American.

"We're are fighting the US, not Israel", said Mr Aouidha, 'and we are proud that even after 45 days, we have not surrendered.' Amidst cheers from the gathering, Mr Aouidha added, "no-one can liquidate us. We will fight until we achieve our goal--a Palestinian nation."

Denying the reports of the PLO's readiness to surrender, Mr Aouidha vehemently asserted that this was only another example of the Western media's misrepresentation of the war and developments in Lebanon. He also pointed to the fact that there had been little coverage of the heavy damages that the PLO fighters had been able to inflict on the Israeli invaders.

Lauding India's support to the PLO cause, Mr Aouidha said that not even Arab countries had exhibited as much solidarity as India had, both inside and in international forums.

CSO: 4220/7644

OIL PRODUCTION PROJECTS THROUGH 1990 REPORTED

Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jul 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 18.

The Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has projected that offshore commercial oil production from the east coast continental shelf from the Cauvery and Godavari basins would go up from a million tonnes in 1985-86 to 5.50 million tonnes in 1989-90. This indicates the high hopes ONGC has about these two basins though luck has so far eluded it since it first struck oil in the Cauvery offshore well last year.

According to the exploration programme in ONGC's action plan for 1980-80, the projected onshore oil production from these two basins would be a million tonnes each by 1989-90. In the Cauvery basin, production is expected to increase from 0.30 million tonnes in 1986-87 to 0.50 million tonnes in 1987-88, 0.70 million tonnes in 1988-89 and a million tonnes in 1989-90. For the Krishna-Godavari basin, the respective projections are 0.20 million tonnes, 0.30 million tonnes, 0.50 million tonnes and a million tonnes.

Onshore production: Total onshore oil production as per the action plan will not exceed 7.9 million tonnes in 1984-85. But, during 1989-90 when onshore production will be accelerated, the annual onshore production is likely to go up from 8.7 million tonnes in 1985-86 to 20 million tonnes in 1989-90. The total oil production, both offshore and onshore, by ONGC, would be 27.02 million tonnes in 1984-85 and 60.50 million tonnes in 1989-90.

Prognosticated reserves: ONGC has estimated that the "prognosticated geological reserves" in the onshore part of the Cauvery basin arrived at by the "modified Delphi technique" are 200 million tonnes and it gives the same figure for the Krishna-Godavari onshore basin as well. The offshore reserves in these two basins as well as the Andaman offshore areas, are prognosticated at 3,040 million tonnes. In the offshore part of the Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basins, prognosticated geological reserves have been estimated at 500 million tonnes and 450 million tonnes respectively in the light of the recent hydrocarbon finds.

The planned percentage of upgradation in the east-coast offshore areas from prognosticated proved geological reserves by 1990, says the action plan, is 40 per cent. Though the different basins have different confidence factors of prognosticated reserves, the reserves of the whole east coast offshore areas have been pooled together for planning the exploration and exploitation during the plan period.

Early production systems: The action plan has provided for the acquisition of early production systems for each new structure so

as to bring a new structure on production within two years after discovery. A platform complex or alternative system would be installed in the third year. It is planned to acquire two early production systems during the Sixth Plan period. In the first variant of the action plan, in any year during 1985-90, the maximum number of new discoveries are five and the total requirement of early production system has been kept at five. In the second variant, the maximum number of structures which are likely to be put on production in any year are seven and, therefore, a maximum of seven early production systems are proposed under this variant.

The action plan, however, says that new discoveries offshore "may not be as prolific as Bombay High and production build-up is expected from relatively small structures...to exploit about 3.5 million tonnes a year from these fields, three well-cum-process and 15 well platforms have been identified.

Data processing systems: As for the computer data processing systems which ONGC will need, the action plan says that the existing IBM 3706145 system is not able to meet fully the data processing needs. Another computer VAX-11/780 has been commissioned in February 1982 with UNDP aid. In 1983-84, the Cyber-800 system is expected to be added at a cost of Rs. 5 crores and, in 1985-87 another system at a cost of Rs. 4 crores with built-in sophistication is expected to be inducted. Certain peripherals may also have to be added to

the National Information Centre in Delhi to meet on ONGC's needs. Availability of computer processing capacity has to be a head of requirements.

As for the support it will need from engineering and construction units for the supply and delivery of offshore equipment, the action plan says that the capability of the Mazagon Docks Ltd. has been duly considered.

The break-up of the production projections from ONGC's different areas of production, onshore and offshore, is as follows:

Basins	1984-85	1989-90
	(in million tonnes)	
ONSHORE		
Cambay	4.10	6.50
Upper Assam	3.80	7.20
Kutch and Saurashtra	—	0.25
Assam Arakan fold belt	—	2.00
Bengal	—	1.50
Krishna-Godavary	—	1.00
Cauvery	—	1.00
Rajasthan	—	0.25
Himalayan foothills and Ganga valley	—	0.30
Total onshore	7.90	20.00
OFFSHORE		
West Coast	19.12	35.00
East Coast	—	5.50
Total offshore	19.12	40.50
Total onshore and offshore	27.02	60.50

CSO: 4220/7642

GANDHI REPORTED TO OFFER AKALI DAL PLACE IN CONGRESS-I

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 14—Mrs Gandhi is reported to have offered to the Akali Dal leadership a place for the Dal in the Congress-(I), and has asked them to give up the politics of confrontation and cooperate in not only tackling the separatist tendencies in Punjab, but together to make the State stronger and prosperous.

The suggestion is stated to have been made in the conducive political situation in which the Congress (I) had chosen Mr Zail Singh as its nominee for the Presidency of India, and is evidently calculated to assuage the feelings of the Sikh community and to assure it of its due place in national life.

Soon after the legislators of the two Akali Dals cast their votes in favour of Mr Zail Singh in the Presidential election, Mrs Gandhi was known to have conveyed her thanks to the leaders of the Akali Dal led by Mr H. S. Longowal (She also thanked other parties like the DMK the AIADMK and the Muslim League for their support for of Mr Zail Singh.)

An offer was then made to the Akalis to come in which would enable them to share power and work for the betterment of the State.

It is stated that the Congress-(I) suggestion is not for a coalition with the Akalis, as the ruling party on its own is in a solid position and has a comfortable majority in the Legislature and does not need the help of other parties. But despite its position in the State, cooperation from the Akalis, it is stated, could make things much better. As far as the State Legislature is concerned, the Longowal Akalis have a strength of 33 and the Talwandi group has three in a house of 117.

The Akali Dal's reaction to the Congress (I) suggestion is not yet known. Probably consultations are going on in the inner councils of the party.

CSO: 4220/7627

GANDHI COMMENTS ON PUBLIC SECTOR PERFORMANCE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 14 (PTI).

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said here today that the public sector in the country must set an example, not only to the private sector, but to all citizens in avoiding waste and making the best and the fullest use of whatever is available.

Releasing a publication on "Public Sector in India" brought out by the Associated Journals Limited, the Prime Minister said: "We are proud of our public sector which, however, does not mean that we are satisfied with it". She said that whenever people had put in their best effort, they had made significant progress.

Mrs. Gandhi hoped that the public sector units would make special efforts during the productivity year—this year—to increase their production, to raise the morale of the workers and to instil the feeling that they are participants in this big endeavour to take India towards economic self-reliance.

Mrs. Gandhi noted that the growth of public sector also helped private sectors as it enabled young entrepreneurs to set up ancillaries particularly in the small scale and village industries sector. The country needed both big industries and medium and small scale units, she added.

She said whatever could be made at the village level or in the small scale sector, should be made there. "Unfortunately people think that in the name of small scale you can lower the quality as we have seen with our machines".

"To my cost, I see that every match that I strike breaks into two and either

you risk burning yourself or your house," the Prime Minister stated.

Mrs. Gandhi also emphasised the need for avoiding wastage of anything.

There was water shortage in the country. But we see taps are kept open and people pining by don't bother to close them." She also stressed the need for educating the people with regard to environment.

"We must try not to cut down trees," the Prime Minister said and cited the example how Dr. Homi Bhabha got the design for the Trombay atomic unit changed so that hardly a couple of trees had to be cut instead of all trees as envisaged in the original design.

Referring to industrial relations in public sector, Mrs. Gandhi said the public sector took good care of its workers. There should be far more contact between the management and workers so that crises which arise might be avoided before they got out of control.

She congratulated the "National Herald" which she said had long been the torch bearer of "our ideals and values for which we have stood", not only now but even before independence.

The industries minister, Mr. H. D. Tiwari, said the public sector had now achieved a commanding height. The capital investment in public sector had gone up from Rs. 29 crore in 1951 to Rs. 21,000 crore last year.

Mr. Mohi Puri, member of the planning commission, said the public sector had played a key role in making the country self-sufficient to some extent. He suggested that individual units of public sector undertakings should be judged on their individual performance and resource utilisation.

ANALYST COMMENTS ON WEST ASIA POLICY, DISSENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Jul 82 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra]

[Text]

INDIA's West Asia policy may have been a subject of controversy from time to time, both at home and abroad. But there has never been any scope for doubt or question about its clarity or consistency. This country backs to the hilt the inalienable right of the Palestinians to a state of their own in the land from which they have been driven out so cruelly. It also insists that Israel must vacate all Arab lands occupied by force. At the same time it has never compromised on Israel's right to secure existence, whatever Arab extremists might say.

What India cannot and will not tolerate, however, is the unspeakable arrogance the Israelis have always displayed in their dealings with their Arab neighbours and which has now culminated in the Israeli savaging of Lebanon. Mrs. Gandhi's statement on the subject in both houses of Parliament could not have been more moving or more constructive. The applause that it has since received speaks for itself. But even more eloquent was the brief incident in the Lok Sabha immediately after the Prime Minister sat down and the BJP MP, Mr. Ram Jethmalani, got up to plead Israel's case.

Special Pleading

He was instantly hooted down, as much by opposition members as by the treasury benches. The house also seemed to enjoy the irony underlying Mr. Chandrabh Naidu's appeal to the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, to either endorse or disown Mr. Jethmalani's special pleading on behalf of the

Israeli aggressors in Lebanon as well as the expelled Israeli consul in Bombay whose vile conduct is difficult to discuss within the confines of parliamentary language.

At one stage, Mr. Vajpayee did rise to say something but resumed his seat after the speaker announced that members should speak only after he had fixed the time for a discussion on Lebanon. But since then, Mr. Jethmalani has been using other means to give vent to his misguided enthusiasm for Israel while Mr. Vajpayee has been maintaining an ostentatious silence, creating avoidable misgivings about his party's stand on an almost literally burning issue.

However what Mr. Jethmalani is saying aloud in public is repeated in private by some others. Their number is by no means very large. Even so, it is something of a surprise that on an issue on which even Israel's best friends have been driven to protest — the Chief Rabbi of Britain has lamented that for the first time the Jewish community is divided and nowhere more seriously than in Israel — some eminently intelligent Indians should deem it their duty to endorse the indefensible action.

A great many complex factors have combined to create this bizarre state of affairs. Not least of these is the penchant of some minds to oppress the government, no matter what the moral risks and wrongs of the issue in question or how high India's stakes in it. But a particularly dangerous element in the situation is the ability of motivated lobbies, both foreign and indigenous, to manipulate the opinion-leaders and

opinion-makers in this country. In this, cupidity plays perhaps a much less extensive role than does gullibility.

Not long ago, someone whose affiliations are well known managed to persuade no fewer than 250 M.P.s, of whom as many as 200 belonged to the Congress(I), to send a message of congratulations to Taiwan and that, too, at a time when this country was engaged in serious negotiations with China. After the event, most of the M.P.s concerned said sheepishly that they had signed the congratulatory telegram in the belief it was addressed to Beijing, not Taipei!

Disinformation Drive

It is no secret that many of those busy in this country promoting Taiwanese interests are busy also on behalf of the Israelis. Moreover, promoters of Israel find it easy to prepare a heady cocktail of cold war attitudes and communal prejudices. In their campaign of disinformation they also find it useful to project the image of a tiny country standing up to much bigger neighbours. If, in spite of all that has gone on in West Asia during the last three decades, this nonsense is believed by some it ought not to be a surprise. For the believers are the same ladies and gentlemen who, during the sixties, used to scream against the government's policy of deploring U.S. bombing of Vietnam on the ground that the Americans were, after all, doing a good thing by teaching the Chinese a lesson!

Some of the critics of the government's West Asia policy say, in something of a complaining tone,

rapport with Gamal Abdel Nasser and started pleading with him that the Arabs and the Israelis must live together in peace. Nasser explained his difficulties and the two leaders agreed to continue their discussions later. But the disgraceful Anglo-French-Israeli invasion of Suez in 1956 put paid to that. The rest of the history is too well known to need recounting. In this country at that time the sympathy for the Egyptians and other Arabs was almost as overwhelming as it is today.

By the time of the 1967 war in West Asia, things had changed. Many Indians felt that they had been let down by their Arab friends not only during the Chinese invasion of this country in 1962 but, even more so, during the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war. It also appeared at that time that the West Asian war had been precipitated by some fateful moves of President Nasser himself. The Israeli pre-emptive strike was short and swift to the point of being surgical, and the Israeli brilliance in battle dazzling.

In New Delhi by then, some Arab representatives had started behaving churlishly. On one occasion, for instance, they walked out of an official dinner merely because one of the Indian guests present happened to be a member of the Indo-Israeli Friendship Society. Above all, the strains which were to lead two years later to the first Congress split were telling on the ruling party rather heavily. Thus it was that dissent from the government's policy then was stronger than at any other time before or since. By the time of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Indian opinion was once again solidly behind the Arabs.

Consulate Issue

What happened during the Janata regime is also significant for it underscores both the soundness and durability of this country's West Asia policy. On the day he was sworn in as Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai told a press conference that he would consider establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel. Within just two hours, at a public meeting at Ramlila ground, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee repudiated him. And the Janata has yet to live down the subsequent secret visit to Delhi

by Gen. Moshe Dayan which, incidentally, was totally unproductive.

So much for the past, what about the future? Israel cannot expect any quarter from this country for as long as it is pursuing the kind of policies it is doing in Lebanon. But even in this intolerable situation the Indian government, quite rightly, is not yielding to the mounting pressure to close down the Israeli consulate in Bombay.

On the other hand, neither India nor the rest of the third world can remain a silent spectator to Israel's execrable butchery around Beirut even though the Arab states have made a pathetic display of their impotence and the Soviet Union too is incapable of doing anything more than issue frequent verbal threats. That is where the meeting of the non-aligned co-ordination bureau at foreign ministers' level at Nicosia comes in.

that it is influenced by the Arab oil wealth, the geostrategic importance of the Arab countries and the sentiments of this country's principal minority, as if these factors are of no relevance. As it happens, in West Asia, India is on the side which is morally in the right and materially to this country's advantage. However, the roots of India's support to the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular are deep and go back to the era when there was no oil in West Asia.

As early as 1920, Mahatma Gandhi spoke out against the Balfour declaration and demanded that the poor Palestinians must not be made to pay for the sins of the anti-Semites of Europe. This was a perfect summary of the situation and it remains valid to this day. In place of the Israeli diaspora there is now the Palestinian diaspora. And, in Lebanon, the victims of Buchenwald and Auschwitz are anti-Hitlerite Hitler.

A quick look back on the developments following the independence and partition of India and the creation of Israel — "through the venal votes of Latin America at the U.N.", to use Lord Wavell's telling phrase — would also be instructive.

This country lost no time in recognising Israel but decided, quite properly, to defer the establishment of diplomatic relations with it until such time that the move could be explained to friendly Arab countries. But the first Arab-

Israeli war intervened though this did not alter the basic Indian decision.

It was at Bandung in 1955 that Jawaharlal Nehru established

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES APPROVED IMF WITHDRAWALS

Statement in Rajya Sabha

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 82 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 13.

THE finance minister, Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, told members of Parliament today: "We should not be worried over our present indebtedness."

But "if we cross the limit then we will be taking too much risk," he said. "We shall have to be careful in future of increased international borrowings."

The finance minister was replying to points raised by Mr. Shiv Chandra Jha (Janata), Mr. Hukam Dev Narain Yadav (Lok Dal), Mr. Kalyan Roy (CPI) and Mr. S. W. Dhrube (Cong-S) in the Rajya Sabha after he had read out a statement that the International Monetary Fund had approved draws of 1,800 million SDRs (special drawing rights) by India between now and June 30, 1983.

Mr. Mukherjee said India had agreed to limit the total domestic credit but the government would ensure that "our basic policies are not compromised."

He said the IMF borrowings would be used to generate wealth so that "we are in a position to pay them back." The loans would help in effectively implementing the government's strategy for restoring viability of the balance of payments.

Special attention would be given to increasing domestic production of petroleum and petroleum products, fertilisers, steel, edible oils and non-ferrous metals.

"Thus import substitution continued to be one of the main elements of our strategy for resolving our balance of payments problems. At the same time efforts are being intensified to expand exports."

Mr. Mukherjee said the situation for increased borrowings was not "of our making". In 1976 there was a big surplus on international trade

account but it was converted into a huge deficit when the Congress(I) was out of power.

In the statement read out in both houses, the finance minister said the IMF had approved in November, 1981, an extended arrangement covering a period of three years in an amount of five billion SDRs.

The arrangement was in support of the government's external adjustment programme based essentially on the sixth five-year plan.

Under the first year's programme, India had the right to draw until June 30, 1982, up to 900 million SDRs. This had been successfully completed and purchases envisaged in the programme duly made.

The programme for 1982-83 would be based on policies outlined in a statement furnished to the IMF on June 8. The statement reiterated the basic strategies and programmes approved by Parliament from time to time.

Mr. Mukherjee drew the attention of the house to the "performance criteria", which had been agreed upon in regard to the 1982-83 programme. He said: "We have indicated our intention to limit the total domestic credit outstanding at the end of the current fiscal year to a maximum of Rs. 87,679 crores against the outstanding amount of Rs. 73,729 crores at the end of 1981-82."

"This implies expansion of domestic credit of about 18.9 per cent in the course of the year over the amount outstanding on March 26, 1982."

"I am sure that the house will agree that this limit is consistent with the objective of adequately meeting the legitimate credit needs of the economy while restraining inflation."

DOMESTIC CREDIT

The total net credit outstanding from the banking system as a whole

to the Central and state governments at 1982-83-end was proposed to be limited to Rs. 36,451 crores against Rs. 30,903 crores outstanding on March 26.

Thus, the increase in net credit to the government from the banking system in 1982-83 would be Rs. 5,550 crores against the actual increase in net credit of Rs. 5,167 crores in 1981-82.

During 1982-83, Mr. Mukherjee said, the government intended to limit the official contracting and guaranteeing of non-concessional loans with maturity up to 12 years to 1.4 billion SDRs. This limit excluded not only aid credits but also loans, which had maturities exceeding 12 years. Further it would exclude loans for the new steel plant in Orissa and the Singrauli super thermal plant (Stage II).

This limit on external commercial borrowings for 1982-83 took into account the requirements of the country for such resources and was also "in conformity with our policy of prudent management of foreign debt," the finance minister said.

Statement to IMF

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 82 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 13.

The Government of India has told the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that while "it is likely that an increase in the Sixth Five-Year Plan outlay for some critical sectors during the year 1982-83 may become necessary with the objectives outlined by them, the Government intends to limit Plan expenditure within the available resources including the loans from bank financing."

These and other measures which the Government proposes to take and the economic outlook for 1982-83 have been spelt out in detail in a nine-page "Statement of policies", forwarded to Mr. J. De Larosiere, Managing Director of the IMF, by Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister, along with his letter of June 8.

Exchange rate policy: On exchange rate policy, the statement says that with "the rupee linked to a basket of currencies, the Government recognises that the exchange rate policy has an important bearing on export growth. The Government will continue to pursue a realistic policy on exchange rates, keeping in mind, *inter alia*, their objectives in regard to overall balance of payments and export promotion."

Balance of payments: Mr. Mukherjee has written to Mr. Larosiere that despite the strong economic growth achieved and the substantial reduction in inflation, "the balance of payments position continued to be under considerable strain due to factors largely beyond our control... Nevertheless, as a result of the policies being followed, we expect that the current account deficit in the balance of payments in 1982-83 will amount to the equivalent of 2.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), some 0.3 per cent of GDP less than in 1981-82. The overall deficit would also be reduced. The Government of India remains firmly committed

to resolving the balance of payments problem in line with the adjustment pattern envisaged in the programme."

Review of progress: The Finance Minister has told Mr. Larosiere that "with respect to the programme in 1982-83, the Government will consult with the fund in the adoption of any appropriate measures consistent with the national policies accepted by our Parliament in accordance with the Fund's policies on such consultations. The Government will review with the Fund before January 30, 1983, the progress made in implementing the programmes and, in particular, the policies and measures relating to public savings, imports and exports and reach such understandings with the fund as are necessary for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the programme. Earlier understandings pertaining to consultations with the fund continue to apply during the second year."

External borrowings: The statement of policies annexed to the Finance Minister's letter, mentions, among other things, that in respect of external borrowings, "efforts would continue to increase commercial borrowing with a view to building up an adequate flow of project financing, especially for the years after the expiry of the extended arrangement consistent with maintaining a prudent debt service ratio. Within this policy, private companies are being allowed to raise funds abroad provided that they can borrow on the strength of the viability of their projects and without the Government's guarantee."

The Government has estimated that commitments on commercial borrowing including private loans which provided about 0.9 billion SDRs (about Rs. 900 crores) in 1981-82 will rise further in 1982-83 and 1983-84. With the increase in commercial loans, foreign borrowing is being monitored to ensure effective external debt management.

Further Details

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Jul 82 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, July 14.

The statement of policies, annexed to the Finance Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee's letter to the IMF Managing Director (published yesterday), has also made the following major points:

(i) The wholesale price index on a point-to-point basis rose by only 1.9 per cent in 1981-82 as against 15.7 per cent in the previous year. The rate of inflation on an average annual basis declined from 18 per cent in 1980-81 to nine per cent in 1981-82. Strict demand management during 1981-82 also dropped as in the case of price performance.

(ii) The Central Government's overall deficit and bank financing of the deficit were somewhat less than programmed. At the same time, public savings considerably improved from the previous year and were broadly in line with the programme. Credit policies towards the commercial sector were also tightened. As a result, expansion in domestic credit was reduced below that envisaged in the programme. There was a larger than anticipated decline in the foreign assets of the banking system. Despite improved domestic economic performance and prudent demand management, the balance of payments continued to be under strain.

Current account deficit is estimated to be SDR 3.5 billion (Rs. 3,500 crores) (2.4 per cent of GDP), which is SDR 0.5 billion higher than envisaged in the programme. The main factor accounting for this was an unexpected further deterioration in the terms of trade.

(iii) Net capital inflows were less than expected, reflecting these developments, overall deficit reached SDR 2.2 billion (about Rs. 2,200

crores) which is SDR 0.5 billion more than envisaged in the programme. Despite purchases of SDR 0.6 billion under the extended arrangement, international reserves were drawn by SDR 1.6 billion (about Rs. 1,600 crores) to SDR 4.3 billion (about Rs. 4,300 crores) at the end of March 1982.

Consolidation

(iv) Against the background of improved economic performance in 1981-82, the Government's economic policy for 1982-83, the second year of the adjustment programme, has been designed to consolidate and carry forward the progress achieved in the first year and to ensure effective implementation of the Sixth Plan.

(v) To support necessary investments, the public sector plan outlays amounted to Rs. 182.1 billion in 1981-82. Plan expenditures were budgeted to rise to Rs. 211.4 billion in 1982-83. Productive capacity in key sectors is estimated to expand in line with the following schedule:

	(1981-82)	(1982-83)	(1984-85)
Coal	125	133	165
Production	million tonnes	million tonnes	million tonnes
Electric	35,100	38,600	51,200
Power	MW	MW	MW
Railway	175	184	220
Freight	million tonnes	million tonnes	million tonnes
Steel	11.2 M/T	12.4 M/T	14.3 M/T
Cement	29.3 M/T	38.0 M/T	43 M/T
Nitrogenous			
Fertilizers	4.7 M/T	5.3 M/T	5.9 M/T

(vi) The Government plans to carry out a mid-term review of the physical and financial aspects of the Sixth Plan during 1982-83. The review will identify areas where adjustments may be appropriate during the remainder of the Plan with a view to ensuring adequate investments in key areas of the economy.

Pricing policy changes

(vii) Major changes in pricing policy have been implemented in cement and steel which will encourage investment and stimulate further utilisation of capacity in the case of cement which is mainly in the private sector. The industry has been moved from a system of full

price control to partial decontrol. Producers will be subject to a levy amounting to two-thirds of installed capacity to be provided at specific prices which have now been unified and raised by an average of 33 per cent. They will be able to sell the rest of the output in the open market. In order to encourage new investment, the proportion allowed for the open market sale from new created capacity is 50 per cent.

(viii) In the case of steel, the Government has abolished the regime of administered pricing. Prices will, in future, be fixed by the industry. Prices have since been adjusted upwards for a major section of the population.

(ix) Prices of petroleum products were substantially raised in 1981-82 to a level which, taken overall, was fully at par with international prices. The pricing policy in this area is designed to provide incentives for conservation and development and this process will be maintained in 1982-83. The prices for coal in several States for electricity were raised in 1981-82. High priority will be continued to be given to the evolution of energy prices so that they reflect economic costs, encourage economy in energy use and promote substitution of scarce fuels.

(x) A significant feature of the financial policies of the Government is the enhancement of the effectiveness of capital markets in providing investment finance for the corporate sector.

STEEL AUTHORITY PLANS TO INCREASE CAPACITY

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Jul 82 p 12

[Text] Madras, July 14. Mr. S. Samarapungavan, Chairman, Steel Authority of India, today told newsmen that the steel industry was poised for substantial growth during the Eighties. He estimated that the demand for steel would rise to 12.7 million tonnes by 1984-85 and 18.4 million tonnes by 1989-90.

Mr. Samarapungavan, who is here on a short visit, said SAIL had launched a programme for increasing the capacity of crude steel in the integrated steel plants to nearly 20 million tonnes by 1989-90. This was sought to be achieved through modernisation, rehabilitation, renovation and strict adherence to quality standards. These efforts would provide for expansion of the existing units and creation of new capacities at other sites. The major schemes were expansion of both the Bhilai and Bokaro steel plants to the four million-tonne stage and installation of the Visakhapatnam steel plant and a steel plant at Daithri in Orissa.

The outlay for SAIL and its subsidiaries in 1982-83 would be about Rs. 544 crores. The major schemes of expansion were: at Bokaro to four million tonnes at a cost of Rs. 140 crores at Bhilai to four million tonnes (Rs. 170 crores), captive power plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela (Rs. 49 crores), the silicon steel plant at Rourkela (Rs. 20 crores) and the Salem Steel Plant (Rs. 10 crores). The expansion at Bokaro was likely to be completed by July next year, and at Bhilai, by December 1982. The Rourkela silicon project was expected to be completed by March 1983.

A target of 6.47 million tonnes of saleable steel had been fixed for the five public sector integrated steel plants for 1982-83. This meant 90 per cent capacity utilisation for SAIL plants.

SAIL had also undertaken to assess the demand for different categories of steel in the coming year. The product-mix of the plants had been designed keeping in view the demand profile. A plan for export-import had been prepared. These efforts would be monitored by a special committee in the Steel department. The objective was to ensure easy availability of iron and steel items.

CSO: 4220/7629

CPI-M LEADERSHIP CONDUCTS ORIENTATION COURSE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Jul 82 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 15.--The CPI(M)'s central leadership impressed upon the party's over 100 State-level leaders in a 10-day political-ideological orientation course which concluded here on Monday that the party should support and uphold the Soviet Union and China as Socialist States and would not risk its "friendly relations" with both by siding with either in their ideological differences or hostility to each other.

The seniormost leaders in the CPI(M)'s Politburo criticized the Communist Party of Soviet Union for its enmity with the Communist Party of China.

They also denounced the CPC for its open alliance with "the imperialist USA" against the Soviet Union and also for calling the Soviet Union a "social imperialist State".

The pro-Moscow CPI too was censured for following the "Right reformist" line.

All varieties of the CPI(ML)—considered by the CPI(M) as its enemy No. 1—were repeatedly denounced as "Left adventurists."

The "party school" at the central level was held after three years.

The 10-hour daily sessions were conducted by the four senior members of the party's Politburo—Mr B. T. Ranadive, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad (general secretary), Mr M. Basavapunniah and Mr Hari Krishan Singh Surjeet.

The subjects for "education" of over 100 State committee members and others were: strategy and tactics, current tactical line and its evolution, ideological difference in the world Communist movement, ideological differences in the Indian Communist movement, Right revisionism and Left adventurism in the international as well as Indian Communist movement, organizational problems of the CPI(M), and its mass organisations.

The "school" was told that in the last 20 years, the CPI(M) had asserted itself in the teeth of fierce Opposition from the Russian and Chinese Communist parties.

And in its struggle to defend its own line, the PCI(M) had refused to slip into either anti-CPSU or anti-CPC positions, despite numerous differences with both.

It was said that the CPSU had dubbed the CPI(M) "splitters", "parallel party", and "sectarian". The Chinese Communists had called the CPI(M) "neo-revisionist". The CPSU supported the CPI and the CPC actively helped the Naxalites.

The "party school" was apparently aimed at keeping the party men away from the move for unity with the CPI. The accent was laid on strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

The CPI(M)'s central leadership has sponsored a quarterly magazine: Journal of Arts and Ideas. The proposed journal will feature writings on visual and plastic arts.

The journal will be run by an organisation named Samvad Trust, which will have a fund of Rs 1 lakh. The party, however, has taken care to see to it that it does not get involved directly in the running of the journal.

CSO: 4220/7630

PAPERS REPORT FLIGHT OF REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN

Arrival from Australia

Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Madras, July 15. Forty Afghan nationals, claiming refugee status, returned here early this morning from Singapore on being deported from Sydney by the Australian Immigration authorities. They are now accommodated in the International transit lounge, Madras airport.

The same batch had emplaned from Madras in the early hours of July 12 (Monday) by the Singapore Airlines flight for Sydney via Singapore. At Sydney one of them, it was learnt here, had produced to the Immigration authorities, two passports, one Iranian and the other, Afghan. On interrogation all members of the group were found to be having two passports. The Afghans were then deported to Singapore and from there to Madras, after spending a night in jail in Sydney.

The group consists of 26 men ranging in age between 21 and 40, six women (most of them below 30) including one in an advanced stage of pregnancy and eight children below 15.

Among them are doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers, accountants, government servants and students.

Immigration sources in Madras said the group produced Iranian passports and had valid visas when emplaning from here on Monday.

The Immigration authorities are in touch with the Union Home Ministry on whether the group should be permitted to enter India or should be sent back.

Pregnant woman: The Airport Health Officer felt the pregnant woman seemed to be having labour pains, and an ambulance was brought. But it was later decided that immediate hospitalisation was not necessary.

Policemen and a few women police personnel are posted at the entrance to the spaciouly furnished lounge.

The Singapore Airlines ordered breakfast (sandwiches and coffee) for the party from the Airport restaurant and served it in the lounge around 10-30 a. m.

Press reporters were allowed to talk to the Afghans at about 4 p. m.

A young man, who did not want to be identified, said the forty members left Delhi by train on July 7 and arrived in Madras on July 9. They had reached Delhi in small batches during the past two years, because of the intolerable conditions after Soviet troops entered Afghanistan.

There were about 10,000 Afghan nationals in India who had left their country in the past 30 months. They were all registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Delhi. He and five family members, including a child, aged 18 months, received Rs. 1,450 a month from UNHCR. This was not enough for them.

Bad treatment: They went to Australia to seek political asylum there. They were badly treated in Australia. They wanted to deliver a message to the Australian people about the problems of the Afghan people. But nobody gave them a chance. Afghan residents in Sydney were also not allowed to meet the group.

All the adults, he said, were on hunger strike from their arrival in Australia to their eventual departure. He categorically said they did not want to be deported to go to any country in the Western hemisphere except Cuba or Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Italy, Switzerland, West Germany.

"We do not know what the Government of India's decision would be. We hope we are given a chance to enter this country and start a new life".

A young woman complained at 4 p. m. that they had not got lunch yet, and that the children were hungry. In a short time the lunch was served to them.

G. K. Reddy on Delhi Attitude

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] The Government of India has no intention of forcibly sending back to Kabul, the 40 Afghan nationals, now stranded at Madras airport, since they are liable to be punished there severely for fleeing the country and seeking political asylum abroad.

Before permitting them to stay on in India until they are accepted by some other country as refugees, the Government has to decide whether these Afghans should be prosecuted for violating Indian laws in obtaining forged travel documents.

It is this aspect that is delaying a decision on allowing them to remain in India for the present, without recognising their refugee status or permitting them to re-settle in this country. The issue is being examined both from the political and legal angles by the Home and External Affairs Ministries for arriving at an early decision.

A bad precedent: One view is that a bad precedent would be set if these Afghans, who had first entered India under false pretexts and left the country later with forged Iranian passports, are allowed to get away with these violations, on humanitarian grounds. The nationals of other countries who violate the country's immigration laws are prosecuted for less serious offenses.

What is important in this context is that, no matter what view the Government finally takes, these Afghans are not going to be thrown out of India, much less, sent back to Afghanistan. They will be allowed to stay on along with thousands of other Afghans who are already in this country in similar circumstances.

A few months ago, a number of Afghan nationals arrived in Delhi from Pakistan with forged visas and they were held for several days at the airport. The Government of India was free to send them back to Lahore from there they came to Delhi by plane, but when Pakistan refused to take them, India quietly allowed them to stay on without making an issue of it.

Forged passports: The Afghan nationals now held at Madras airport have been staying in India for varying periods before proceeding to Australia with forged Iranian passports. There is thus no question of throwing them out of the country despite their violation of Indian immigration laws in possessing forged passports.

Indians, who generally sympathise with the plight of thousands of Afghan refugees fleeing from the tyranny of the Soviet-controlled regime in their country, are quite astonished at the hypocrisy of some of the Western nations, which talk so eloquently of human rights, but decline to accept even a small number of such refugees, raising technical objections.

Third Day at Airport

Madras, July 17. The 40 Afghan refugees, who landed at the Madras airport on Thursday morning on their being deported from Sydney by the Australian Immigration authorities spent their third day today in the International transit lounge here.

The Immigration authorities here are still awaiting instructions from the Union Home Ministry on how to deal with their problem.

They were provided with food by Singapore Airlines.

CSO: 4220/7632

RETURNEES FROM PAKISTANI JAILS IN BAD HEALTH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] The 10 Indians, including a woman, who return home on (Tuesday) after long years in Pakistani jails, are in a bad physical and mental condition.

A Home Ministry spokesman told newsmen on Monday that the Government's information was that the 10 Indians were in a 'bad shape' and would require instant medical attention and care as soon as they arrived.

According to the schedule, the 10 persons arrive at Palam airport at 8 p. m. aboard an Indian Airlines flight from Karachi. Extensive medical arrangements have been made at the airport to attend them. They will be rushed to hospital immediately after disembarkation.

Meanwhile, according to a press release of the Pakistani embassy in New Delhi, the Pakistan Government has offered to prepare and exchange complete list of Indian prisoners in Pakistan on reciprocal basis.

The release also outlined the new Pakistani decision to allow access to Indian consular officials to visit and meet Indian nationals held in Pakistani jails. The Pakistan Government hoped that the Government of India would extend similar facilities on reciprocal basis, the release added.

Among the 10 is Mrs Badami, the wife of Pooran Singh of Turbi village Saow tehsil of Barmer district in Rajasthan. Of the nine men, three are from Kerala, two from UP, two from Rajasthan, one from Maharashtra and one from Gujarat.

The State Governments have already been directed to inform the relatives of the released persons about their arrival.

While the Home Ministry was unable to give further details about the persons, including how long they had been in Pakistani jails and the charges under which they had been arrested, and even their ages, it is understood that the Indians are suffering from extreme privation and the physical and mental torture that it implies.

They will be given a thorough medical checkup in Delhi and will be hospitalised till they are fit to go back to their homes. The Health Ministry has been directed to make adequate arrangements and provide an ambulance at the airport.

The Delhi Police Commissioner has also been directed to make arrangements so that the homecoming Indians are not subjected to any hardships.

The following are the names and addresses of the 10 returning home:

Mr Mohammad Chembaksheri s/o Mr Moideen, Mr Hyder s/o Mr Moideen, Mr Shiv Ram s/o Mr Appukuttan (all from Kerala), Mr Harnatho s/o Mr Kaloo Wazir, Mohammad Shafi s/o Mr Mohammad Ali, Mrs Badami w/o Mr Pooran Singh (all from Rajasthan), Mr Bheero s/o Mr Umashankar, Mr Rama s/o Mr Lachman (both from Uttar Pradesh), Mr Baboo Ram s/o Mr Somaram from Maharashtra and Mr Shankroo s/o Mr [words indistinct].

CSO: 4220/7644

REPATRIATES FROM SRI LANKA FACE UNCERTAINTIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 82 p 7

[Text] Madurai, July 18 (UNI). Eight months after the expiry of the deadline set for repatriation of workers of Indian origin from Sri Lanka, about 1,000 repatriates continued to arrive at the transit camp at Mandapam, about 145 km from here, each week to face an uncertain future.

The India-Sri Lanka agreement of 1963 provided for the repatriation of 6,00,000 persons of Indian origin, mostly unskilled plantation workers, to India by October 31, 1981. However, only about 3,75,000 persons have been repatriated so far and hence the continued influx.

The earliest to arrive were rehabilitated easily, but recent arrivals have been facing difficulties in their quest for a new life in their ancestral land.

Those who have arrived at the Mandapam camp now are faced with the choice of opting for plantation work or absorption in the co-operative spinning mills in the south or seeking financial assistance to set themselves up in self-employment projects.

A repatriate opting for self-employment is entitled to a loan of Rs. 5,000, of which Rs. 3,000 will be advanced immediately and the balance is paid after the authorities have been satisfied about the progress made in the venture. No interest, however, is charged for the first five years. Besides, a repatriate is also eligible for a housing loan of Rs. 4,000 in the rural and Rs. 8,000 in the urban areas.

Inquiries showed that nearly 77 per cent of the repatriates had opted for self-employment and collected the first loan instalment of Rs. 3,000. Very few of them came back to collect the second instalment of Rs. 2,000, underlining the fact that the self-employment ventures they took up had not been successful.

The repatriates at the camp said that they were satisfied with the sympathetic attitude of the officials though their living conditions needed improvement.

CSO: 4220/7640

ANALYST TELLS INDIA'S POSITION ON BAGHDAD SUMMIT

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 82 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] New Delhi, July 16. There are renewed doubts whether the next non-aligned summit can be held in Baghdad in early September because of the Iranian bid to intensify the war against Iraq even at the risk of precipitating a fresh crisis in the Gulf.

The preparations for the summit were proceeding briskly on the assumption that the war was practically over following the Iraqi retreat from occupied Iranian territories.

But it is highly unlikely that there would be an early end to this conflict in view of Ayatollah Khomeini's determination to carry the fight into Iraq and topple the Saddam Hussein regime, if possible.

The Iraqi Government has spent an estimated \$500 millions (Rs. 450 crores) on arrangements for the summit and was exerting every possible pressure on Iran to agree to at least a temporary ceasefire to enable it to hold the conference. The latest offensive launched by Iran makes it abundantly clear, according to non-aligned circles here, that the Ayatollah is bent on wrecking the summit to make Iraq look small in the eyes of the other members of the non-aligned movement.

War zone: "It is quite unthinkable that, if the fighting continues during the next three or four weeks, the overly security conscious heads of many non-aligned countries, including the neighbouring Arab States, would agree to attend the Baghdad summit if it is going to be held in what would be deemed to be war zone. It is for this reason that Iraq had gone out of its way to declare a unilateral ceasefire, after the retreat of its forces from occupied Iranian territory, in the hope that the non-aligned opinion would be able to assert itself in restraining Iran from continuing the fight even if it was not prepared to agree to a formal cessation of hostilities without the fulfilment of at least some of its conditions.

A number of non-aligned countries are still keen on having even a token summit meeting with minimal attendance if only to avoid a prolongation of Cuba's chairmanship of the movement. There is some talk that, if the summit cannot be shifted elsewhere to have a brief working session.

Tremendous effort: But no country is prepared to accept the responsibility for making the necessary arrangements at such short notice to accommodate in conditions of proper security and comfort as many as 90 delegations, whether they are led by Presidents, Prime Ministers or Foreign Ministers, because of the tremendous effort involved in playing host even if it is going to be a truncated summit.

It is for this reason that the Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned peace group, who are now in Nicosia attending the emergency session of the Coordination Bureau on Lebanon, have urged Iran to halt its latest offensive and refrain from further military action until a fresh effort is made to bring about a ceasefire.

But the Ayatollah continues to insist on both political penance and monetary reparations as a pre-condition for ending the conflict. He is threatening to destroy the oil installation in the Basra area and bomb the oilfields in the interior from where the flow of crude by pipeline to the Mediterranean outlets has already been interrupted by the Syrian Government.

India's predicament: India, which has equally cordial relations with both Iraq and Iran, is finding itself placed in an extremely embarrassing position by the latest escalation of the conflict. It does not want to offend Iraq by suggesting a postponement of the summit in the face of the Iranian refusal to agree even to a temporary ceasefire. Nor can it afford to displease Iran by giving the impression that it was going out of its way to save Iraq's face.

CSO: 4220/7625

THREE EXTREMIST LEADERS KILLED NEAR IMPHAL

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] Imphal, July 16.--Three extremists, later identified as top insurgents who had recently killed R. K. Robindro Singh, Education Secretary to the Manipur Government, were reported to have been killed in a chance encounter with security personnel in the Thangmabano area near here today, reports PTI.

The three--Champ-Singh, Yumanan Nilmani Singh and Kasho Singh--high-ranking members of the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party, had challenged security personnel when asked to stop during a check of passengers and vehicles which is made in the area to curb infiltration by insurgents.

An exchange of fire ensued in which two of the rebels were killed on the spot. The other later died in hospital.

Official sources said one revolver, one pistol and a large quantity of ammunition were seized from them. Two other extremists were arrested from the area by the security personnel.

Meanwhile, the State Government has decided to post plainclothesmen at the residences of "important" officials, according to informed sources.

A high-level meeting of officials was held yesterday to discuss the situation in the State, the sources added.

Meanwhile in Kohima, the pro-Marxist Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland led by the Munivah-Isak faction, suffered a severe jolt last week when five officers of its armed wing, including a "major", surrendered to security forces, according to official sources, adds UNI.

The five, led by "major" Itokhu Rptnitokhuisema, also surrendered one sub-machine gun, one carbine, one pistol and a huge quantity of ammunition.

The rigours of guerrilla life and differences of opinion in the running of the organization's affairs were said to have been among the reasons for the surrender which was the first of its kind since the party's formation in Northern Burma in 1979.

The five guerillas made up their minds to desert after the capture of the NSCN vice-president, S. S. Khaplang, who belonged to the Nami Naga tribe of Burmese origin and the killings of five of his men, including one "lieutenant" by the Burmese security forces recently.

Khaplang, who was the leader of the northern Burmese tribe, was the inspiration behind the Muvivah-Isak faction, the sources added.

CSO: 4220/7634

NEW MINISTRY TAKES OFFICE IN UTTAR PRADESH

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 82 pp 1, 7

[Text] Lucknow, July 19 (UNI). A 26-member, two-tier council of ministers, led by Mr Shripati Mishra was sworn in here this morning.

Mr Mishra, his 13 Cabinet Ministers and 12 Minister of State were administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor C P N Singh in a 90-minute ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan lawns.

Among the 13 Cabinet Ministers sworn in today, 10 were the same as in the outgoing Vishwanath Pratap Singh Ministry.

The three new faces among the Cabinet Ministers are Mr Baldev Singh Arya, a senior Congress-I man who had been a Minister in the N D Tewari Ministry till the 1977 elections and Mr Yashpal Singh and Mr Abdul Rahman Khan Nashtar, who were dropped earlier by Mr V P Singh from his cabinet.

Among the 12 Ministers of State, as many as 11 were in the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Ministry.

The lone newcomer was State Youth Congress-I chief Sanjay Singh, Mr Sanjay Singh was applauded most when he was administered the oath.

A significant feature of the new cabinet is the dropping of as many as six Cabinet Ministers of the previous Government. These were: Law Minister Jagdish Prasad, Labour Minister J C Dixit, Agriculture Minister Bhanu Pratap Singh, Industry Minister Niaz Hasan, Urban Development Minister Shri Krishna Goyal and Education Minister Naunihal Singh.

As many as 14 Ministers of State in the outgoing ministry could not get berths in the new Government.

Important among the Ministers of State to be dropped were Mr Rajendar Tripathi (Irrigation), Mr Kashinath Mishra (Information) and Mr Praveen Kumar Sharma (General Administration).

No Deputy Ministers were included in today's list of the ministry which is likely to be expanded after the Chief Minister's discussions with the high command in a day or two.

The strength of the outgoing ministry was 49--seventeen Cabinet Ministers, 26 Ministers of State and six Deputy Ministers.

List of Ministers

The Cabinet Ministers are: Mr Shripati Misra (Chief Minister), Mr Veer Bahadur Singh, Mr Brahm Dutt, Mr Balram Singh Yadav, Mr Lokpati Tripathi, Mr Ammar Rizvi, Mr Baijnath Kureel, Mr Ram Singh Khanna, Mr Abdul Rahman Khan Nashtar, Mr Swaroop Kumar Bakshi, Mr Baldev Singh Arya, Mr Yashpal Singh, Mr Vidya Bhushan and Mr Vasudeo Singh.

The Ministers of State were: Mr Sunil Shastri, Mr Sheonath Singh Kushwah, Mr Chandramohan Singh Negi, Mr Bachcha Pathak, Mr Gulab Sehra, Mr Ram Rattan Singh, Mr Sanjay Singh, Mr Amin Ansari, Mr Gopal Ram Das, Mr Ranjit Singh Joodev, Mr Ram Naresh Shukla and Mr Hari Singh Balmiki.

No Pressures

After the swearing-in ceremony Mr Mishra told newsmen that portfolios would be announced in 'a day or two'.

He added: 'I would like to see if the existing portfolios can be regrouped or re-organised in a useful manner.'

On further expansion of the Ministry, he added 'Expansion is due, and it will take place. But it will take some time.'

Asked when he proposed to face the Assembly, Mr Mishra replied 'at the earliest.' He, however, would not say anything about the election of a new Speaker.

The new Chief Minister declared that he would never allow any communication gap with the people.

'I will see to it irrespective of the extent to which I have to strain myself,' he said adding: 'Communication gap leads to all the troubles.'

He said he had adhered to the yardstick of 'merit and performance' in packing up his Council of Ministers. 'Nobody has pressurised me in this regard, nor do I like to function under pressures.'

About the 'reappointment' of Mr Abdul Rehman Khan Nashtar and Mr Yashpal Singh--who had been dropped by Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh--Mr Mishra said 'I know that the two were dropped. But I don't know for what they were dropped.'

'I have chosen my Cabinet from among the party legislators by picking up who several I considered proper,' Mr Mishra added.

He, however, added: 'I am not an independent man I have to act and follow the discipline of the great organisation, of which I am a humble soldier.'

Prominent among those present at the swearing-in were Mr Arun Nehru, Union Minister of State for Supply and Rehabilitation Buta Singh, Mrs Lalita Shastri, Deputy Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha Yadvendra Singh, State Congress-I chief Mohsina Kidwai and her predecessor Bishambhar Nath Pandey.

CSO: 4220/7644

RAO SPEAKS AT NONALIGNED BUREAU MEETING

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 82 p 9

[Text] Nicosia, July 16. India has called for a complete isolation of Israel by the world community "for defying international opinion and behaving in a lawless manner."

Addressing the plenary session of the extraordinary meeting of the Non-aligned Coordinating Bureau here today, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao said the meeting should work out a programme of action to achieve this.

He said the Bureau should demand the immediate lifting of the siege of West Beirut and cessation of hostilities in Lebanon. The Israeli forces should withdraw from Lebanese territory unconditionally and an interim U. N. peacekeeping force should be stationed to supervise the ceasefire and withdrawal.

Mr. Narasimha Rao said all through these years since 1948 Israel had been on a "spree of aggrandisement" and had been describing its wars of "aggression and conquests" as "defensive acts."

He pointed out that "strangely enough, some of the permanent members of the U. N. Security Council, who voted several resolutions against Israel are now objecting to their implementation."

"Besides, some powerful countries have shown a lack of understanding of the aspirations of the Palestinians. They are supporting Israel militarily and economically and encouraging its arrogance to aggression."

During his 30-minute speech, Mr. Rao briefed the delegates about India's close contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Government of Lebanon at the time of the "recent tragedy and travail."

Moderate members of the non-aligned movement resisted an Iranian-led attempt last night to denounce the U. S. for alleged collusion with Israel over its invasion of Lebanon, conference sources said.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ali Akbar Velayati, urged countries attending an emergency meeting of the non-aligned Bureau here to impose an economic blockade and oil embargo on Israel and "its imperialist supporters led by the criminal America."

The conference called to consider how to support Palestinian guerillas trapped in west Beirut by Israeli troops, was considering a draft communique calling on all non-aligned and other States to sever diplomatic, economic and all other relations with Israel.

The draft did not refer to the U. S., but the sources said Iran had proposed that Washington be denounced for its alleged collusion in the Israeli military campaign.

The move was supported by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and radical countries like Cuba, Algeria and Syria. But moderates, including Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria and Senegal, opposed it, the sources said.

In a message to the conference, the PLO leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, who is with the 6,000 guerillas in the Lebanese capital, appealed to the 97-member non-aligned movement to take concrete measures to support the Palestinians and Lebanese and to punish Israel and the U. S.

The draft communique called on the U. N. Security Council to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against Israel urgently.

India elected: India was elected chairman of the editing committee which will prepare the draft resolution.--UNI.

PTI reports:

Mr. Narasimha Rao called on Mr. Spyros Kyprianou. He also met the Foreign Minister Mr. Nicos Rolandis who is the Chairman of the special session.

Mr. Rao had informal discussions with the Cuban Foreign Minister, Mr. Isidoro Malmierca, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. A. A. Velayati, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Yaqub Khan and with the Zambian Foreign Minister, Prof. Goma.

CSO: 4220/7635

SOVIET CHARGE, CPI LEADER SPEAK ON DISARMAMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 82 p 10

[Text] **T**HE Soviet Union is prepared to negotiate with other nuclear powers of the world for complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and believes in a gradual movement towards general and complete disarmament, reiterated the charge-d'affaires of the USSR Embassy M Semivales in the Capital on Friday.

Semivales was speaking at a round table discussion on Disarmament, Development and Indo-Soviet cooperation organised by the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society.

Speaking of the USSR's willingness to negotiate with the other Western powers on disarmament, the charge-d'affaires, however, stressed that his country would not tolerate talks being used as a cover for continuing the arms race.

Elaborating on the package of Soviet proposals for disarmament, including those aimed at freeze and reduction of conventional and nuclear weapon stockpiles, and curbs on chemical and biological warfare, Mr Semivales stated that these proposals reflected the Soviet Union's genuine desire 'to do the utmost not to allow the world to pass through the destructions of war.'

While Mr Semivales observed his country was usually 'optimistic,' he said, "but today we have to admit that if the existing global trend is allowed to continue, earth will no longer be a safe place."

Dwelling on the effect of the arms race on developing countries, Mr Semivales observed

that it had a profound impact on the economies of these countries and doomed them to a position of dependency on the developed world.

Member of the Central Executive Committee of the CPI H K Vyas urged the Indian Government to take greater initiative in specific suggestions for disarmament and peace.

Pointing to the ways in which the US military machine was being geared on all fronts, Mr Vyas said that the threats of this phenomenon were now becoming more tangible as new theatres of war erupted in the world. Mr Vyas spoke of the conflicts in Lebanon and of the dangers posed to the Indian subcontinent by the massive US programme on Diego Garcia and the rearming of Pakistan.

Noting that development and disarmament were inter-linked imperatives of the Third World, well-known academician Prof K Zuberi, however, observed that economic and military pressures made socio-political change in these countries difficult.

While the US had a vested interest in containing economic development in the Third World, Prof Zuberi pointed to the numerous occasions when the Soviet Union had come to the assistance of India and enabled it to bargain more effectively with western countries.

Dr A S Raman of the CSIR spoke extensively of the US government's attempts to thwart scientific development of Third World countries. He pointed to the US administration's recent directives to American universities to regulate employment and

research facilities to scientists of developing countries and said this was an impediment to the free flow of information.

On the other hand, Dr Raman noted, the US had no compunction about treating Third World citizen as guinea pigs to develop abhorrent forms of scientific warfare.

FOREIGN FUNDS BAN PLACED ON 28 POLITICAL UNITS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 18 (UNI). Altogether 28 organisations of political nature have been barred from accepting foreign contributions without the prior permission of the Centre.

A notification to this effect under section 5(1) of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976, has been published in the gazette of India extraordinary of May 31.

The organisations include the Afghan Liberation Centre in New Delhi, the Indian Students' Islamic Association, Bangalore, Students' Islamic Movement in India, and Aligath Shiv Sena.

Section 5(1) of the above act provides that "no organisation of a political nature, not being a political party, shall accept any foreign contribution except with the prior permission of the Centre. Any violation in this respect is punishable under the law by imprisonment or fine or both," according to an official press release here today.

The organisations debarred from accepting foreign contribution are: the Afghan Liberation Centre, New Delhi, Iranian Students' Islamic Association, Bangalore, Indian Youth Congress (I), New Delhi, Indian Youth Congress (S), New Delhi, National Students' Union of India (I), New Delhi, National Students Union of India (S), New Delhi, Yuva Janta, New Delhi, Janta Yuva Morcha, New Delhi, Tamire-e-Millat, Hyderabad, Students' Islamic Union, Hyderabad, Halqa Tulaba Islami, Patna, Students' Islamic Movement in India, Aligath, Jai Gurudev and Door Darshi Party, Mathura, Shiv Sena, Bombay, Mass Movement, Bombay, Human Rights Protection Committee, Trivandrum, Akhil Bhartiya Nepal Bhasha Samiti, Darjeeling, Mahase-e-Azadi, Jammu and Kashmir, Jamaat Ahal-e-Hadis, Srinagar, Rashtra Sevika Samiti, Wardha, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bombay, Revolutionary Students' Organisation, Kerala, Hindu Mazdoor Sabha, Bombay, Yuva Lok Dal, New Delhi, Dal Khalsa, Chandigath, Jammatt Ahle-e-Hadis or all-India, Ahle-e-Hadis, Delhi, Jamaat-e-Islami, Srinagar, and Christian Action Group, Chaibasa.

Dacca (UNI): The Bangladesh council of ministers had decided to frame a law, which will require Bangladesh citizens and organisations to seek the government's approval before accepting foreign contributions.

The council, which met yesterday under the chairmanship of the chief martial law administrator, Lt.-Gen. H. M. Ershad, said the law would apply to "foreign aid or dole," both in cash and kind.

CSO: 4220/7640

ESTIMATE OF PETROLEUM IMPORTS FOR 1982-83 UP

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 82 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 18 (UNI). India will import 5.8 million tonnes of petroleum products during the current year against the preliminary tentative estimate of four million tonnes, according to the revised estimates.

The increase of 1.8 million tonnes was mainly due to the recent strike in the state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) in Bombay and the shut-down of its secondary processing units. Another reason given was the delay in the commissioning of its Mathura's secondary processing units and Koyali refineries.

Nevertheless, the quantity of imports of products in the current year would be less than the previous year's figure of 7.29 million tonnes. The import figure for petroleum products for 1979-80 was only 4.73 million tonnes.

Output Up

Meanwhile, the indigenous production of petroleum products has gone up from 25.79 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 28.20 in 1981-82.

The total indigenous production of crude oil and petroleum products would be 20.95 million tonnes and 31.8 million tonnes against the total demands of 31.7 million tonnes and 35.71 million tonnes respectively during 1982-83.

This would mean an import of nearly 12 million tonnes of crude oil during 1982-83. This would be less than last year's figure of about 16 million tonnes.

Efforts are on to further reduce the imports and ultimately reach self-sufficiency in oil. With this aim, the government has decided to invite a second round of bids from foreign oil companies for oil exploration and drilling in selected re-structured blocks.

It is officially stated that the details have been sent to the cabinet for approval. At the same time, efforts are being made to reduce oil consumption through various conservation measures.

With a view to stepping up production, the Oil and Natural Gas commission has drawn up a scheme to drill 195 new wells--both exploration and development--during 1982-83.

The number of oil wells under production in the country as on June 30 this year was 1,174. The total quantity of oil produced during the last three years was 41.19 million tonnes.

The total oil production this year—January to June—was nearly 9.5 million tonnes against the total production of 13.889 million tonnes in the previous year, the official estimates indicate.

CSO: 4220/7640

COMMERCIAL BANKING REPORTED TO SPREAD OVER COUNTRY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 19 Jul 82 p 7

[Text] Bombay, July 18. Commercial banks opened 2,928 new bank offices during the period July 1981 to March 1982, of which no fewer than 2,275 offices were opened in unbanked centres. Following this the average population per bank office for the country has come down to 18,000 as of March, 1982 (based on mid-year-estimate of population) from 19,000 in June, 1981 (based on 1981 census). The average was as high as 65,000 before nationalisation (end of June, 1969).

The total number of new bank offices opened since July, 1969 and upto the end of March, 1982 comes to 31,105—17,902 offices in unbanked centres and 13,203 offices in banked centres. At the end of March 1982 there were 38,614 commercial bank offices (including 4,792 offices of regional rural banks), as against 35,707 offices (3,598 offices of RRBs) in June, 1981.

Of the 2,918 new bank offices opened during the period, 28 public sector banks accounted for 1,558 offices, regional rural banks for 1,201 offices and private sector banks for 159 offices.

The number of rural bank offices at the end of March, 1982 was 19,942 (representing 51.6 per cent of the total number of offices), against 17,650 offices (representing 49.4 per cent of total) in June, 1981. There were barely 1,832 rural bank offices before nationalisation, representing 22.1 per cent of the total 8,262 offices.

The relatively underbanked states continued to have a significant share in branch expansion during the year. With the establishment of a large number of new bank offices in these states, the average population per bank office has gone down in all of them.

New Policy

A new commercial bank branch licensing policy for three years--1982-83 to 1984-85--has been announced by the Reserve Bank. The policy seeks to ensure that bank branches are well spread out in rural areas and that no pockets of unbanked areas are left even in districts which may be relatively well banked on an aggregate population basis. It aims at achieving, by the end of March 1985, a coverage of one bank office on an average for a population of 17,000 in rural and semi-urban areas on the basis of the 1981 census. Opening of offices in districts other than

underbanked centres will be allowed to a limited extent, keeping in view the growth in economic activity, need for banking facilities in the area and special features warranting establishment of additional bank offices. Hilly regions, regions which are sparsely populated and tribal areas will be given special consideration and expansion in such areas will be allowed on a comparatively liberal basis.

Commercial banks continued to ensure an increasing flow of funds to priority sectors, and within these sectors to the weaker and neglected sections of the community. The priority sectors together accounted for loans and advances amounting to Rs. 10,412 crores as at the end of December, 1981 against Rs. 8,017 crores in December, 1980. Their share in total bank credit was 37.1 per cent, against 35.0 per cent.

The working group constituted by the RBI under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Ghosh, deputy governor, to identify the tasks for the banking system for effective implementation of the new 20-point programme has submitted its report, which is under consideration.

CSO: 4220/7640

STATISTICS ON CPI-M PARTY MEMBERSHIP REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, July 18--Although the CPI(M)'s membership has risen from 110,000 to 270,000 between 1978 and 1982, the fact remains that the strength of the party is still concentrated in Kerala and West Bengal.

The two States account for 186,000 of the total membership of the CPI(M). What is interesting is that Kerala and not West Bengal has the largest share in the membership--104,035 followed by West Bengal (82,000).

There has been a considerable growth in the party's mass organizations--All-India Kisan Sabha, Students' Federation of India, Democratic Youth Federation of India and All-India Democratic Women's Association.

The political-organizational report of the CPI(M) presented to the 11th party congress in Vijayawada in January this year, but leaked now, has disclosed information about the total membership of the class and mass organizations of the party.

The total membership of the class and mass organizations stood around 4.8 million in 1978. It has now reached 10 million. The present strength of the All-India Kisan Sabha is 5.7 million. The membership of the Students Federation of India has risen from 412,700 in 1978 to 714,000 in 1982. The membership of the Democratic Youth Federation of India and the All-India Democratic Women's Federation put together is 2.5 million.

The membership of the trade union organization, CITU, is stagnant at 1.5 million.

The Marxist Communists do not seem to be growing at all in Maharashtra particularly among the working class in Bombay. The party's membership in Maharashtra and Bombay between 1978 and 1982 has risen by merely 600, its total strength being 3,320. The poor standing of the party in Maharashtra and Bombay must cause some uneasiness to the most senior members of the Politburo, Mr Ranadive and the central committee member, Mr S. Y. Kolhathar, as they hail from Bombay.

The party has, of course, grown in Bihar, the rise in membership being of the order of 4,760. But in Delhi, where the party has its central headquarters, its membership in 1982 stands at 730.

The increase in membership over the last four years in West Bengal and Kerala has been quite spectacular. The membership in Kerala rose from 67,370 in 1978 to 104,085 in 1982 and that in West Bengal from 43,340 to 82,500.

The report shows that the CPI(M) is slowly, but not very significantly, growing in strength in Assam, Orissa, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tripura.

CSO: 4220/7641

JOINT CONSULTANCY FIRM TO BE SET UP WITH NIGERIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 19 Jul 82 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 18.--The State-owned Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants will soon launch a new consultancy firm abroad in collaboration with the Government of Nigeria called MECON (Nigeria) to undertake engineering contracts.

The proposal of MECON to have the new engineering and consultancy company has been approved by the Government of India, with the former holding a majority interest in the joint venture.

With the formation of the Indo-Nigerian venture, MECON has evidently achieved a major breakthrough and emerged as one of the world's best technical and engineering consultants. Earlier, having commissioned on schedule an over \$1 billion integrated steel plant of one million tons capacity in Warri in Nigeria in January, MECON has undertaken another job for constructing yet another 1.3 million-ton steel project at Ajarkuta in that country. MECON's contract involved over \$30 million. The steel plant is based on the conventional blast furnace technology. The Wari plant was based on the direct reduction process.

The firm's annual turnover for the year 1981-82 amounted to Rs 39 crores, with a net profit of Rs 5 crores. In the current year, the MECON management expects to have a turnover of over Rs 50 crores. The firm's subsidiary, Indo-Swiss Engineering Company, floated two years ago to undertake consultancy and detailed engineering work for bauxite and alumina and aluminum industries in third countries, has brought back home earnings of Rs 40 lakhs in foreign exchange.

Bridging the technological gap in the metallurgical industry in the country, MECON has emerged in 20 years of its existence without a competitor in the western countries to match its experience. It has carried out the consultancy, project management and detailed engineering works for six integrated steel plants--four in the country and two abroad.

It has now secured, in the face of global competition, an order from the Visakhapatnam steel plant for the design and supply of light and medium merchant mill. The order is worth Rs. 200 crores. MECON has on hand the work of designing seven metre tall high capacity coke oven batteries and dry coke cooling plants for the Visakhapatnam plant.

CSO: 4220/7641

GSI REPORTS STRATEGIC METALS FOUND IN DARJEELING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 82 p 4

[Text] Calcutta, July 18 (PTI).—In a determined bid to step up base metal reserves in the country the Geological Survey of India has implemented several projects on investigation.

During exploration work, says a GSI release, strategic minerals were found in Darjeeling district. Around Musong area in this district investigation had been taken up for tungsten mineralisation.

According to the GSI test drilling has revealed the presence of significant copper zones over a strike length of about 600 metres near Netra village in Singhbhum district in Bihar.

Promising copper ore zones have also been found at Adash in Sambalpur district of Orissa where copper mineralisation has been established so far over a strike length of 300 metres the release says.

According to the release, investigation conducted in Dalingchu and Kharkhola block of Gurubathan in Darjeeling district revealed that four boreholes in the latter block intersected lead-zinc mineralisation over a strike length of 200 metres.

The GSI delineated two strong magnetic zones in village Gondanata and Manush-muria in Singhbhum district of Bihar, it adds.

On investigations for other minerals the release says, two bauxite deposits have been found in Koraput and Kalahandi districts of Orissa. One of them was on Niyam Dongar hills falling both in Koraput and Kalahandi districts.

A tentative reserve of about 81.0 million tonnes of 40 per cent aluminium oxide is estimated here, the release says.

The other deposit at Sijimali in Koraput has bauxite capping extending over 660 metres.

Bauxite deposit also occurs in Amtipani in Ranchi district of Bihar on two parallel plateaux trending approximately north-south. The width of the laterite bauxite capping varies from 100 metres to about one km adds the release.

A bauxite zone varying in thickness from 0.5 metres to six metres has been located in Chhatasarai, Amtipani and Pat Lodha blocks of the same district. Tentative reserve for Chhatasarai and Amtipani blocks is of the order of four million tonnes, the release adds.

CSO: 4220/7643

BRIEFS

SUPPORT FOR MAURITIUS—An official delegation is currently in Mauritius to prepare the ground for the visit of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to that island next month, Petroleum Minister P Shiv Shanker officiating for the External Affairs Minister said in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, reports UNI. Mr Shiv Shanker told Mr Indrajit Gupta that the official team would work out the areas in which India could strengthen the economic relations with Mauritius and this would be concretised during Mrs Gandhi's visit. He said that the Government of India consistently supported the Mauritius Government's demand for the return of Diego Garcia to them. Indian Government would continue to maintain this stand. Mr Gupta said small islands in the Indian Ocean were sought to be destabilised by the Western powers and the Indian Government should strengthen its relations with these islands. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 82 p 3]

TRADE DEFICIT REPORTED—India's trade deficit last year is provisionally estimated to be over Rs 5,700 crores Deputy Commerce Minister P A Sangma informed the Lok Sabha on Friday says PTI. The deficit rose from Rs 2,562 crores in 1979-80 to Rs 5,813 crores in 1980-81, he said in a written reply to Mr R N Rakesh and Mr Daya Ram Shakya. The heavy deficit was attributed by Mr Sangma, to steep increases in prices of major imports to persistent recession and various tariff barriers imposed by developed countries. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 82 p 5]

GANDHI VISIT TO USSR—The dates for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's visit to the Soviet Union are in the process of finalisation and will be announced in due course, External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao, said in the Rajya Sabha on Friday, reports PTI. [Excerpt] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Jul 82 p 5]

SIKKIM CABINET CHANGES—Gangtok, July 14.—The Sikkim Chief Minister, Mr Nar Bahadur Bhandari, today announced reshuffling of the Cabinet whereby works of identical nature have been grouped together "to ensure better coordination of activities" in the State, reports PTI. In the reshuffle, the first since Mr Bhandari assumed office, the Department of Establishment was taken over by the Chief Minister himself from the Finance Minister, Mr Sheorab Palden. Mr Palden was given the additional charge of the Department of Health which was under Mr S Limboo, Minister for Industries and Education. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Jul 82 p 1]

BIHAR CABINET RESHUFFLE--Patna, July 13.--The Bihar Chief Minister, Mr Jagannath Mishra, in a sudden reshuffling of portfolios today allocated the Science and Technology Department to Mr Ramashray Prasad Singh, who is already in charge of Food, Supply and Commerce, Parliamentary Affairs, Information and Publication Relations, reports UNI. The Science and Technology Department was hitherto looked after independently by a Minister of State, Mr Shamail-e-Nabi in addition to the Health Department. According to sources, the change has been caused by Mr Nabi's reported statement regarding the State Government's policy of private technical institutions in which some leading politicians are said to be involved. Mr Nabi would, however, continue to function as Minister of State for Science and Technology under Mr Singh, the sources said. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Jul 82 p 9]

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER--Tokyo, July 15. The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yoshio Sakurauchi, will visit India and Pakistan from August 27 after the current long extended regular Diet session ends. A Foreign Ministry official said the Foreign Minister also planned to visit Denmark and Britain after his visits to India and Pakistan before returning to Tokyo on September 6 or 7. Mr. Sakurauchi had originally planned to visit India and Pakistan by August 13 but postponed his o journey because of a minor eye operation. [K. V. Narain] [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Jul 82 p 1]

IMF INSTALLMENT--New Delhi, July 16. India has added SDR 600 million (approximately Rs. 625 crores) to its foreign exchange reserves as the first instalment of the second year's drawals from the IMF under the extended arrangements. Another instalment of SDR 600 million is expected to be made available in October. The balance out of the total of SDR 1800 million will be drawn by India after a further review of the performance criteria by the Fund towards the end of 1982. India has drawn SDR 900 million (over Rs. 950 crores) in the first year of the extended arrangement ended June 1982. In the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June), the drop in the foreign exchange reserves was only Rs. 200 crores, after taking into account, a part of the IMF drawing in April as compared to a steep decline of Rs. 462 crores in the corresponding quarter of 1981-82. The draw-down of the reserves in 1982-83 is expected to be much less than the Rs. 2,122 crores last year mainly because of the large drawings from IMF in the second year. The foreign exchange reserves at the end of June stood at Rs. 3,384.26 crores as against Rs. 4,295 crores on the same day last year.--PTI. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Jul 82 p 9]

CHINESE LEAFLETS DROPPED--Jaipur, July 15: An unidentified aircraft dropped Chinese literature, garments and biscuits over a three-km. area around Khari Kalan, Khari Khurd and Goliyan villages, about 50 km. off Jodhpur, on Saturday night, according to a delay report received here. The aircraft, which came from the western direction, flew back in the same direction. The villagers carried away the garments, but the Chinese literature and tins of biscuit were handed over to the collector of Jodhpur, Mr. S. D. Srivastava. The additional district magistrate, Mr. Kesar Singh, has since proceeded to the area to make an on-the-spot investigation. The printed literature is being sent to New Delhi for analysis. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Jul 82 p 18]

PHNOM PENH TROOPS BACK FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

BK091425 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 8 Jul 82

[Text] At 0800 this morning military units of Phnom Penh held a solemn meeting in the presence of Comrade Nhek Huon, member of the Phnom Penh Military Command; Comrade Mok Mareth, vice chairman of the Phnom Penh Municipal People's Revolutionary Committee; Comrade Sam Sundoeun, member of the party committee and chairman of the Youth Association of Phnom Penh City; and many cadres and combatants of the capital's armed forces.

Opening the meeting, Phnom Penh Military Command member Comrade Nhek Huon read out the communique issued by the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos foreign ministers conference: [begin recording] Dear comrades from all units, dear members of the Presidium: the foreign ministers of the three Indochinese countries held the sixth ordinary conference in Ho Chi Minh City from 6 to 7 July, 1982, and discussed topics relating to the revolutionary struggle of the three countries, including many questions concerning our country. [end recording]

Afterwards, Comrade (Preap San), chief of the political department of the Phnom Penh garrison, took the floor to expose the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK], saying: [begin recording] We would like to stress that the conference regarded the formation of the so-called tripartite coalition government as a shallow joke, as nothing of any substance, a ridiculous farce, a derision of world public opinion. It is like putting up a scarecrow to keep sparrows away. It has no proper character as a government. It is more like a gang of bandits roaming the border in search of prey--our Kampuchean people. It is not a government.

We have seen that under the regimes of the three traitors--Sihanouk, Son Sann and Pol Pot--the Kampuchean people lived in tears. Under these three regimes we were utterly oppressed. Whom does this so-called government represent? How many persons are living in the few square meters they control? How many soldiers do they have in their traitorous army? In fact, they have nothing. This government was established in order to dupe international opinion and a small segment of national opinion. We must be aware that whatever is found inside this government is rotten. [end recording]

To express support for the communique, many representatives of the units took turns exposing the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and Beijing expansionists who have put another layer of paint and makeup onto the reactionaries in an attempt to sabotage the Kampuchean revolution and split the Kampuchea-Vietnam-Laos solidarity which is developing steadily.

They voiced support for the communique of the Indochinese foreign ministers conference: [begin recording] In addition to efforts to agitate the masses and imbue in them the correct revolutionary line, all of us are determined to heighten vigilance against the enemy's psychological war and to resolutely frustrate all of their perfidious maneuvers--military and political--as well as to remain combat ready under all circumstances to ensure security for our Kampuchean people. [end recording]

In conclusion, the organizing committee representative read out a support motion of the Phnom Penh garrison to be sent to the KPRP Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers and the KUFNCD, which reads:

[begin recording] We fully support, welcome and agree with the proposals put forward at the sixth conference of the three countries' foreign ministers on 6 and 7 July 1982. We most categorically condemn the so-called tripartite coalition government of the reactionary khmers and regard all such endeavors as mere farce and smokescreen that the Beijing expansionists in collusion with the United States and other reactionary forces have staged to cover up the ugly features of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan gang and to use them in opposition to the rebirth of the Kampuchean people.

Beijing, the United States and other international reactionary forces use the Sihanouk card to mislead public opinion. Our people, however, are very well aware that Sihanouk, in cahoots with Pol Pot, Ieng Sary and Khieu Samphan, is guilty of a serious crime against his fatherland and nation, for he supports the genocidal regime. The collusion between Sihanouk, Son Sann and Pol Pot shows their weakness. The deeper this collusion, the more exposed their antinational and antipopular nature.

We fully support the agreement between the Kampuchean and Vietnamese governments which, to further demonstrate good will in their relations with Thailand, have decided to partially withdraw Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea, and the proposal of the PRK on the establishment of a safety zone on both sides of the Kampuchean-Thai border.

We hold that the above-mentioned decision and proposal clearly reflect our fairness, strength, solidity and good will. At the same time, they also prove the sincerity and noble aspirations of our party government and front. We express gratitude to the fraternal communist party, army and people of Vietnam for providing precious and noble assistance and support to our Kampuchean people. We are elated at the successes of our people during the past 3 years. We have full confidence in the leadership of the party Central Committee, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers and the Front National Council. We pledge to hold aloft the two banners of patriotism and international solidarity.

We firmly believe that the cause of national defense and construction will win victory once and for all. We pledge to increase the solidarity of the people and army as a whole, to enhance international solidarity, particularly with Vietnam, to ceaselessly raise our militant spirit and vigilance, to carry out all national defense and construction tasks, and particularly to frustrate all sabotage maneuvers of the enemies during the current rainy season. We pledge to fulfill the productive labor during this rainy season with the best of results and to defend and build the fatherland to the last drop of our blood. [end recording]

The meeting ended in an atmosphere of solidarity and victory.

CSO: 4212/27

DEGA-FULRO KONTUM BATTLE REPORT FOR APRIL

BK180919 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to
Kampuchea 2330 GMT 17 Jul 82

[Text] Here is a report on the battle activities of the Dega-Fulro guerrillas:

The Kontum battlefield: On 7 and 9 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas ambushed the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy troops moving from (Chinh Nge) village to (Kon Long) village and attacked them at (Buon Ple Tinh) plantation west of Kontum, killing three men and wounding three others. The guerrillas seized 2 AK's and a quantity of material.

On 11 and 17 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan forces along the (O Iek Len) River west of (Buon Nga). The Vietnamese soldiers suffered from the guerrillas' bows in an area west of Kontum. Two men were killed and three others were wounded. The guerrillas seized 2 AK's and 2 AR-15's.

On 17 and 22 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy's position in (Buon Ple Me) village. Two enemy troops were killed and three others wounded by the guerrillas' bows in a region west of Kontum. The guerrillas seized 2 AK's and 2 AR-15's.

On 22 and 23 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy's position in (Buon Plei Me Tho) village west of Kontum. The Vietnamese were attacked in (Buon Tien Me) plantation. Seven Vietnamese soldiers were killed and nine others wounded. The guerrillas seized 13 AK's, 4 AR-15's and an M-79. Four military barracks and a store house were destroyed.

On 25 and 27 April, the Dega-Fulro attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy forces in (Plei Bre) south of (Klon). The Vietnamese were attacked at (Plei Ha Tinh) north of Plei Ko) and at (Chi Nam). Thirteen Vietnamese soldiers were killed and 9 others wounded. The guerrillas seized 7 AK's, 2 M-79's and 4 handgrenades.

In sum, on the Kontum battlefield, the Dega-Fulro inflicted 54 casualties on the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy. They destroyed 4 military barracks and a store house. They seized 26 AK's, 3 M-79's, 8 AR-15's and a quantity of materiel.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FROM 5-11 JULY

BK121027 [Editorial Report] Monitored Kampuchean media have reported the following agricultural developments in the reporting period 5-11 July:

Kompong Thom: Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0400 GMT on 4 July reports that by the end of May, Kompong Thom Province had broadcast almost 13,000 hectares of floating rice and planted 915 hectares of early and ordinary rice, about 1,000 hectares of farm rice, as well as 3,000 hectares of secondary crops such as corn, manioc, potato, beans and vegetables. At 1300 GMT on 6 July the radio service adds that in Sandan District, by the end of May, peasants had tilled 2,000 hectares of land and planted hundreds of industrial and secondary crops. Phnom Penh SPK in French at 1438 GMT on 8 July adds that in Santuk District peasants have sown more than 3,700 hectares of floating rice and planted 250 hectares of early rice, 620 hectares of rice on burned-off land and grown 500 hectares of subsidiary crops. Phnom Penh Radio at 0400 GMT on 10 July notes that in Baray District, by mid-June, peasants had broadcast 2,800 hectares of floating rice and grown more than 4,200 hectares of corn, soybeans, manioc and vegetables. The district authorities have provided peasants with rice seed, chemical fertilizer and 11 waterpumps.

Battambang: Phnom Penh radio at 0400 GMT on 4 July reports on agricultural production in Sisophon District, Battambang Province, as follows: by the beginning of June, 5,858 hectares of rice seed had been sown and 1,836 hectares of land reclaimed. The agriculture service has provided peasants with 40 tons of floating rice seed and 310 tons of late rice seed. The service also prepares to barter with peasants 40 tons of urea fertilizer and 42 tons of chemical fertilizer. The radio at 1300 GMT on 11 July adds that in Sangke District, by 17 June, 13,415 hectares of land had been tilled; 3,885 hectares of floating rice planted and 201 hectares of rice transplanted. The district also plans to carry out intensive agriculture on 500 hectares of land. Meanwhile, peasants planted 3,259 hectares of secondary food crops and hundreds of hectares of industrial crops.

Pursat: SPK at 0410 GMT on 5 July reports that in Pursat Province the veterinary service has vaccinated 5,580 buffalo and 820 pigs against contagious diseases.

Kampot: Phnom Penh Radio at 1300 GMT on 6 July notes that in Chhuk District, Kampot Province, in 10 days ending 20 June, peasants tilled 1,075 hectares of land, sowed rice on 964 hectares and transplanted 520 other hectares. The district agriculture service prepares 17 waterpumps to help peasants in case of drought and 60 tons of fertilizer to help in production. The radio at 1300 GMT on 11 July adds that in Banteay Meas District, peasants had sown 365 hectares of early rice and then transplanted them on 3,546 hectares. Peasants also sowed 315 hectares of main season rice and grew 3,151 hectares of various secondary crops, including 1,200 hectares of corn and 394 hectares of industrial crops such as peanut, mulberry, cotton, sugarcane, jute and mungbean.

Kompong Cham: According to the radio at 0400 GMT on 7 July, peasants in Memot District, by the end of June, had planted more than 4,500 hectares of rice and grown more than 7,200 hectares of subsidiary crops. They thus achieved nearly 60 percent of the plan norm.

Preah Vihear: SPK at 0405 GMT on 8 July reports that peasants in the frontier province have planted 1,000 hectares of rice on burned-off land, tilled 240 hectares of land, sown rice on 400 hectares and grown 1,360 hectares of corn, beans, potato and other crops. The people are repairing dikes, barrages and irrigation canals. Last year, Preah Vihear planted 13,130 hectares of rice and sold to the state 20,400 tons of paddy.

Kandal: Phnom Penh Radio at 1100 GMT on 9 July notes that in Ponhea Loe District, Kandal Province, 8 hectares of land have been reclaimed, 350 hectares of ricefields tilled, 40 hectares sown, 30 hectares of floating rice broadcast; 131 hectares of corn, 12 hectares of beans, 51 hectares of manioc and potato and 30 hectares of vegetables grown; 10,176 head of oxen, 1,096 head of buffalo and 4,560 pigs raised.

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AGRICULTURAL REPORT FROM 12-18 JULY

BK190247 [Editorial Report] Monitored Kampuchean media have reported the following agricultural developments in the reporting period 12-18 July:

National level: Phnom Penh SPK in French at 0412 GMT on 13 July reports that during the last fishing season the nationwide catch amounted to 65,660 tons-- 4,660 tons above plan. SPK gives the provinces' catches as follows: Kompong Chhnang 11,560 tons, Kandal 11,000 tons, Pursat 8,700 tons, Siem Reap 8,260 tons, Battambang 6,660 tons and Phnom Penh City 6,100 tons. Last year's production was 50,000 tons, the report adds.

Battambang: At 0419 GMT on 12 July SPK reports that the gunny sack factory in Don Teav produced 97,500 sacks in the first 6 months of the year. Last year's production was 50,000 sacks. Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian at 0400 GMT on 13 July reports that in Mongkolborei District peasants have transplanted 29,205 hectares of rice and broadcast a further 3,250 hectares. At 0400 GMT on 15 July the radio reports that workers of the provincial machinery plant have helped peasants till 32,000 hectares of land in Preah Net Preah, Phnum Srok, Mongkolborei, Battambang, Mounng Russel, Sangke and Sisophon districts. At 0400 GMT on 16 July the radio reports that in Preah Net Preah District over 7,500 hectares of land had been tilled by tractors by 18 June while 7,000 hectares had been tilled by buffalo and oxen. Over 5,000 hectares of floating rice has been broadcast, over 4,000 hectares of late rice sown and over 9,000 hectares of farm rice planted. Hundreds of hectares of corn, manioc, beans and other secondary crops have also been planted.

Svay Rieng: The radio reports at 1300 GMT on 13 July that in Svay Rieng District there are more than 10,000 buffalo and more than 2,000 oxen for farm work. By the end of June 3,000 hectares of land had been tilled, more than 200 hectares of early rice had been transplanted and 700 tons of rice seed sown. An SPK report at 0427 GMT on 16 July reports that by the end of June peasants had planted 1,170 hectares of rice. The rainy season target is 115,250 hectares. Romeas Nek District has planted 590 hectares and Svay Rieng District 390 hectares. The province's draft animal herd comprises 59,770 cattle and buffalo.

Takeo: In Prey Kabbas District, according to the radio at 0400 GMT on 12 July, 5,000 hectares of land has been plowed and 3,163 hectares of rice has been broadcast, 464 hectares of early rice transplanted and 798 hectares of subsidiary crops planted.

Kompong Chhnang: The radio reports at 1300 GMT on 15 July that by early July 4,600 of the planned 5,000 hectares of floating rice had been broadcast, 3,085 hectares of rice had been sown and 6,460 hectares of other types of rice planted out of the planned 42,000 hectares of rice acreage. This year over 3,000 hectares of rainy season ricefields, over 2,500 hectares of farm rice fields and over 400 hectares of dry season fields have been restored. The province has over 15,000 head of buffalo. SPK at 0434 GMT on 15 July adds that in the last dry season the province grew 5,500 hectares of rice and 867 hectares of industrial crops.

Kampot: At 1434 GMT on 17 July SPK reports that Kompong Trach District has planted 4,500 hectares of early rice and 3,600 hectares of late rice. The plan calls for 17,500 hectares of rice to be planted in the rainy season. The district has 13,400 oxen and 2,000 buffalo.

Prey Veng: According to SPK at 0426 GMT on 16 July, by the end of June peasants in Kompong Trabek District had planted 2,530 hectares of rice and broadcast 5,890 hectares of floating rice against the plan for 32,000 hectares of rice this rainy season.

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BRIEFS

INDOCHINA MINISTERS CONFERENCE--On the evening of 7 July, cadres, personnel and artists of the Ministry of Information and Culture warmly greeted the communique of the sixth foreign ministers conference held in Ho Chi Minh City on 6 and 7 July. On that occasion, Comrade Chheng Phon, minister of information and culture, expounded on the meaning and importance of the communique to the audience. The comrade minister also denounced the coalition government of the three reactionary groups, which intends to return and sow destruction on the Kampuchean people again. In fact, they obey the orders of the Chinese hegemonist-expansionists and the U.S. imperialists. The comrade minister exposed the despicable characters of Sihanouk, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan, who go round begging for arms to exterminate our people. The comrade minister stressed that our cadres must be aware of our stand in order to defend our country and advance it toward genuine socialism, and must broaden and strengthen national and international solidarity. [Text] [BK101643 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0400 GMT 10 Jul 82]

SAMRAONG DEVELOPMENTS--In the first half of 1982, inhabitants of Samraong District, Siem Reap Province, actively joined in the defense and construction of their villages. They built 31,131 meters of strategic defense line around their villages and communes, constructed 2 bridges, gathered thousands of Nipa palm bundles for the army and cleared a 21-meter stretch of bushes along Route 68. Those inhabitants whose sons, brothers and husbands were misled by the enemy went into the jungle along the border and persuaded 57 misled persons to turn themselves in to the revolutionary authorities. Currently, the people in Samraong District are tilling land and transplanting rice crops in order to fulfill the 4,000-hectare target for rice growing. [Excerpt] [BK071016 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Jul 82]

MEMOT DISTRICT OPERATIONS--In close cooperation with the Vietnamese volunteer troops and the commune and village militiamen, in the first half of this year cadres and combatants of Memot District, Kompong Cham Province, launched 37 medium-scale and small-scale operations against the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary-Khieu Samphan remnants hiding in the jungle. This included 12 independently launched operations. During these operations, they killed 45 enemy troops, wounded 32 of them and captured 4 others. At the same time, enemy remnants turned themselves in. They also seized 35 assorted weapons, including 4 AK-57's, 2 60-mm guns, a B-40 and an M-79, a telegraph set and a large quantity of materiel. [Excerpt] [BK071009 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 5 Jul 82]

CSSR FOREIGN MINISTER TELEGRAM--Bohuslav Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, recently sent a telegram to Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and PRK minister of foreign affairs, to thank him for his congratulatory message on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the CSSR's liberation. The message said: We are very touched by your high appreciation of our support for the PRK and we firmly believe that the fraternal friendship and the long-standing cooperation between our two countries will continue to develop successfully. [Text] [BK191433 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0400 GMT 18 Jul 82]

CSSR LEADERS MESSAGE--Comrade Gustav Husak, secretary general of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia Central Committee and president of the CSSR; and Comrade Lubomir Stougal, premier of the CSSR, recently sent a message to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State; and Comrade Chan Si, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, thanking the latter for their congratulations on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the CSSR's liberation by the Soviet army. The message reads: We are firmly convinced that the traditional relations of friendship, the bond of solidarity and the fraternal cooperation between our two countries will develop more firmly and increasingly in all aspects for the benefit of our two peoples, in the interests of the victories of the socialist forces and in the interests of peace and progress in the world. [Text] [BK180805 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 Jul 82]

JAPANESE DELEGATION--Following its successful visit to the PRK, the delegation of the Japanese Young Buddhists Association led by its vice chairman, Tamagawa Gakusho, left for home at noon on 29 July. On hand at Pochentong Airport to see the delegation off were Comrade Min Khin, acting secretary general of the KUFNCD National Council; venerable Un Sum, vice chairman of the Phnom Penh Municipal Front Committee; female Comrade Sisowath Sovethivong Monivong, member of the KUFNCD National Council; and many cadres and personnel. [Text] [BK300305 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Jul 82]

WESTERN REGION BATTLE--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Western Region battlefield killed 10 Vietnamese aggressor troops and wounded 12 others for a total of 22 enemy casualties. In the production of the primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 185,000 new punji stakes, dug 300 punji pitfalls and set 270 automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Western Region battlefield! [Text] [BK220731 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 21 Jul 82]

FULRO ACTIVITIES--Here is a report on battle activities of the Dega-Fulro guerrillas: The Pleiku battlefield: On 5 and 9 April Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy in (Plei Khanh Me Banh) village and ambushed a Vietnamese district chief's jeep on Route 19 at the junction with the road to (Plei Khanh) village. Five enemies were killed and four others wounded. Among those killed were a Vietnamese district chief and his bodyguard.

The guerrillas destroyed the jeep, 2 ammunition depots and a military barracks, and seized a pistol, 6 AK's, 100 rounds of AK ammunition and a briefcase. On 13 and 15 April, Dega-Fulro guerrillas who had hidden among the people killed the chief of (Maong Yang) District, 27 kilometres east of Pleiku. The guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese in (Buon Plei Thlok) village and in an area close to (Plei Mon) village. Eight Vietnamese soldiers were killed and eight wounded. The guerrillas seized three AK's and three AR-15's. In sum, on the Pleiku battlefield, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas inflicted 26 casualties on the Le Duan Vietnamese enemy, including two district chiefs killed. The guerrillas destroyed a jeep, two depots and a military barracks, and seized a pistol, nine AK's, three AR-15's and a quantity of ammunition and materiel. [Text] [BK210952 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 20 Jul 82]

MOUNG-KOAS KRALOR BATTLE--Last June, our comrades in arms on the MOUNG-KOAS Kralor battlefield killed 21 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and wounded 24 others for a total of 45 casualties. Concerning the production of primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 80,000 new spikes, dug 150 new punji pitfalls and set 100 new automatic bows. Long live our valient and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the MOUNG-KOAS Kralor battlefield. [Text] [BK210829 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 20 Jul 82]

BAKAN-PURSAT BATTLE REPORT--Last June our comrades in arms on the Bakan-Pursat battlefield killed 57 Vietnamese aggressors and wounded 13 others for a total of 70 casualties. In the field of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 18,000 punji stakes, dug 100 new punji pitfalls and set 150 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the Bakan-Pursat battlefield! [Text] [BK200705 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 19 Jul 82]

BAN ME THUOT ACTIVITIES--Here is a report on the combat activities of the Dega-Fulro guerrillas on the Ban Me Thuot battlefield: On 1 and 7 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy troops east of (Buon Tras) village when they were climbing (Chi Tongvech) hill. The guerrillas killed four enemy soldiers, wounded six others and seized an AR-15. On 15 and 16 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy troops east of (Buon Ea) village and at (Buon Dakkak) hamlet plantation, killing four and seizing an AR-15. On 23 and 25 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan enemy troops at (Buon Yak Gardiloc) hamlet near (Yang) hill, killing 5, wounding 11 and seizing an AR-15, 2 AK's and 10 handgrenades. Also on 25 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas ambushed a Vietnamese truck coming from Ban Me Thuot, killing five, wounding three and seizing two M-79's, three AK's, two AR-15's and a radio receiver. On 27 April, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese enemy troops at (Buon Kran) hamlet, killing 5, wounding 12 and seizing an AK and 4 SKS's. In sum, on the Ban Me Thuot battlefield, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas put 55 Vietnamese troops out of action and seized 2 M-79's, 6 AK's, 5 AR-15's, 4 SKS's, 10 handgrenades and a radio receiver. [Text] [BK200721 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 19 Jul 82]

LNLFF CLASHES--Here is a combat report from Laos. On 10 and 11 July the guerrillas of the Lao National Liberation Front [LNLFF] attacked the Vietnamese enemy groups at (Khlem), killing two and wounding six. On 12 and 13 July, the LNLFF guerrillas attacked the Vietnamese at (Khlem) and west of (Khlem), killing 6, wounding 12 and destroying an AK. In sum the LNLFF guerrillas put out of action 26 Vietnamese troops and destroyed an AK. [Text] [BK190214 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 18 Jul 82]

SOUTHWEST REGION BATTLEFIELD--Last June our comrades in arms on the Southwest Region battlefield killed 96 Vietnamese aggressor troops and wounded 108 others for a total of 204 enemy casualties. In the field of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 188,000 punji stakes, dug 400 new punji pitfalls and set 250 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the Southwest Region battlefield! [Text] [BK190202 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 18 Jul 82]

STUNG TRENG-EASTERN REGION--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Stung Treng-Ratanakiri-Mondolkiri-Kratie-Eastern Region battlefield killed 21 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and wounded 19 others for a total of 40 casualties. Concerning the production of primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 454,300 new spikes, dug 200 new punji pitfalls and set 200 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Stung Treng-Ratanakiri-Mondolkiri-Kratie-Eastern Region battlefield! [Text] [BK180755 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 17 Jul 82]

CENTRAL REGION BATTLE--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Central Region battlefield killed 8 Vietnamese aggressor troops and wounded 8 others for a total of 16 enemy casualties. Our comrades in arms also made and planted 278,900 new punji stakes, dug 300 punji pitfalls and set 200 automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Central Region battlefield! [Text] [BK171321 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 16 Jul 82]

DEGA-FULRO DAC LAC BATTLE--Here is a report on the combat activities of the Dega-Fulro guerrillas: Dac Lac battlefield: On 7 and 14 April, the Vietnamese Le Duan troops ran into the spiked pitfalls and automatic bows set by the Dega-Fulro guerrillas north of (Etom Rev) and in the former (Ea Ngul Buon Trach) suffering six wounded. On 19 and 23 April the Dega-Fulro guerrillas ambushed the Vietnamese Le Duan troops on the road leading from Dac Lac to (Etom Rev) and on the road leading from (Etom Kanil) to (Etom Rev), killing 4 enemy troops and seizing 2 AK's, 2 AR-15's and 460 AK rounds. On 27 and 30 April, the Dega-Fulro attacked the Vietnamese Le Duan troops east of Dac Lac, at an area between (Ho Trang) and (Tu Ngae) near Dac Lac and in an area near (Da Ngoi) hamlet, killing six enemy troops, wounding two others and seizing an AK and a carbine. In summary, the Dega-Fulro guerrillas on the Dac Lac battlefield killed or wounded 18 Vietnamese Le Duan troops and seized 3 AK's, 2 AR-15's, a carbine and 460 AK rounds. [Text] [BK171317 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 16 Jul 82]

GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES--On 7 July our army and guerrillas dug up 11 holes in the road leading from Sisophon to Thmar Puok on the Sisophon north of Route 5 battlefield. Each hole is 1.50 meters deep. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Sisophon north of Route 5 battlefield! [Text] [BK171319 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 16 Jul 82]

CHEEP-THALABARIVAT BATTLEFIELD--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Chhep-Thalabarivat battlefield killed 186 Vietnamese aggressor troops and wounded 224 others for a total of 410 enemy casualties. In the production of the primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 795,600 new punji stakes, dug 670 punji pitfalls and set 320 automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Chhep-Thalabarivat battlefield! [Text] [BK160212 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 15 Jul 82]

ROUTE 10-PAILIN BATTLE REPORT--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Route 10-Pailin battlefield killed 241 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 297 others. In the field of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 1,150,000 punji stakes, dug 600 new punji pitfalls and set 100 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the Route 10-Pailin battlefield! [Text] [BK110256 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 9 Jul 82]

SIEM REAP ACTIVITIES--On 3 July, our army and guerrillas cut two bridges of the Vietnamese enemy--at (Prek Luos) and (Khteah)--totaling 15 meters, on Route 6 west of Dam Dek market, Sot Nikom District, Siem Reap battlefield. We killed two Vietnamese soldiers who guarded the bridges and seized two AK's. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people in Sot Nikom District, Siem Reap Province! [Text] [BK080934 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 7 Jul 82]

WESTERN LEACH BATTLE REPORTS--In June our comrades in arms on the Western Leach battlefield killed 164 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and wounded 92 others for a total of 256 casualties. Concerning the production of primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 1.2 million new spikes, dug 150 new punji pitfalls and set 90 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Western Leach battlefield! [Text] [BK080935 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 7 Jul 82]

KOH KONG-KOMPONG SOM BATTLEFIELD--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Koh Kong-Kompong Som battlefield killed 285 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and wounded 259 others for a total of 544 casualties. Concerning the production of primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 1 million [figure as heard] spikes, dug 370 new punji pitfalls and set 120 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Koh Kong-Kompong Som battlefield! [Text] [BK070248 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 6 Jul 82]

SAMLOT, BATTAMBANG BATTLES--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Samlot battlefield in Battambang Province killed 104 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 155 others. In the field of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 710,000 punji stakes, dug 180 new punji pitfalls and set 80 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the Samlot battlefield! [Text] [BK110300 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 8 Jul 82]

SISOPHON-BAVEL REPORTS--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Sisophon-south of Route 5-Mongkolborei-Bavel battlefield killed 130 Vietnamese enemy aggressors and wounded 155 others for a total of 285 casualties. Concerning the production of primitive weapons, our comrades in arms made and planted 187,000 new spikes, dug 800 new punji pitfalls and set 150 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Sisophon-South of Route 5-Mongkolborei-Bavel battlefield! [Text] [BK110414 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 10 Jul 82]

ROUTE 5 BRIDGE DESTROYED--On 7 July, our army and guerrillas attacked and destroyed a 10-meter bridge on Route 5 between Sisophon and Mongkolborei. This temporarily interrupted the traffic between Sisophon and Battambang. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Sisophon-Mongkolborei battlefield! [Text] [BK110411 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 10 Jul 82]

CHEMICAL WEAPONS DENOUNCED--On 29 June, Samuel Stratton, a U.S. congressman, firmly denounced the use of toxic chemical weapons in Kampuchea, Laos and Afghanistan by the Vietnamese and Soviet aggressors. He was speaking at a meeting of the special committee of the second UN special session on disarmament. He said: The United States has seriously investigated and found evidence that clearly shows the Vietnamese have been using toxic chemical weapons provided by the Soviets in Kampuchea since 1978. The Soviets have used toxic chemical weapons in Afghanistan since 1979. [Text] [BK110408 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 10 Jul 82]

ROUTE 5 ACTION--On 7 July, our army and guerrillas used mines to cut three portions of Route 5 between Sisophon and Nimit near Toek Thla (Bridge) and Daeum Muoy Daeum village, each crater measuring from 3.5 to 4-m wide and 3-m deep. Long live our valiant and courageous army and guerrillas of the Sisophon-South of Route 5 battlefield! [Text] [BK121113 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 11 Jul 82]

LNLF GUERRILLA ATTACKS--Here is a report from Laos: On 4 July, the Lao National Liberation Front [LNLF] guerrillas attacked a platoon of Vietnamese soldiers moving from their post at (Khloem) to (Preal) hamlet, killing five and wounding eight. On 7 July, the LNLF guerrillas attacked Vietnamese soldiers in their position at (Khloem), killing four and wounding six. In sum, during these 2 days the LNLF guerrillas put 23 Vietnamese troops out of action. [Text] [BK130310 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 12 Jul 82]

NORTH SISOPHON BATTLES--Last June our comrades in arms on the North Sisophon-Thmar Puok-Preah Net Preah battlefield killed 177 Vietnamese aggressors and wounded 195 others. In the area of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 196,000 punji stakes, dug 890 new punji pitfalls and set 500 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the North Sisophon-Thmar Puok-Preah Net Preah battlefield! [Text] [BK130324 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 12 Jul 82]

CHOAM KHSAN BATTLES--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Choam Khsan, Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey battlefields killed 127 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 136 others. In the field of primitive arms production, our combatants made and planted 598,000 punji stakes, dug 500 new punji pitfalls and set 400 new automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people of the Choam Khsan, Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey battlefields! [Text] [BK140412 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 13 Jul 82]

LNLF GUERRILLA ATTACK--Here is a combat report from Laos: On 9 July the guerrillas of the Lao National Liberation Front [LNLF] attacked the Vietnamese enemy troops west of (Khlem) hamlet, killing three and wounding two others. The survivors fled and hit landmines set by the LNLF guerrillas, suffering one killed and another wounded. [Text] [BK150303 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 14 Jul 82]

GUERRILLAS TRAIN IN KAMPOT--On 5 July our army and guerrillas ambushed a train carrying Vietnamese troops in an area near the Kompong Smach canal, Prey Nop District, Kampot Province. We set one of the train cars ablaze, killed 15 Vietnamese troops aboard the train, wounded 10 others and destroyed a quantity of materiel. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people in the Prey Nop District of Kampot Province! [Text] [BK150345 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 14 Jul 82]

SIEM REAP-ROUTE 6 REPORT--Last June, our comrades in arms on the Siem Reap-Route 6 battlefield killed 181 Vietnamese aggressor troops and wounded 127 others for a total of 308 enemy casualties. Our comrades in arms also made and planted 128,200 new punji stakes, dug 100 pitfalls and set 150 automatic bows. Long live our valiant and courageous army, guerrillas and people on the Siem Reap-Route 6 battlefield! [Text] [BK150308 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian to Kampuchea 2330 GMT 14 Jul 82]

CSO: 4212/27

KKK PROJECTS FAIL MISERABLY IN MINDORO

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 20 Jul 82 p 24

[Article by Robert A. Evora]

[Text]

CALAPAN, Oriental Mindoro — Doubts have begun to set in as the implementation of the KKK, has failed to "make progress" since it was introduced to this island last year.

Not one project from among the 150 KKK loan applications, which include those filed by a corporation and some 40 member-associations in Calapan alone, has been approved by the regional action center of the Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) for some "reasons," according to highly-placed government official.

It was also gathered that some "Illiterate Mindoreños," who are interested in applying for a small KKK loans, have "no one to turn to" to make the highly-technical project feasibility studies, a pre-requisite in the approval of the loan.

That problem is compounded by the lack of organization and coordination among the participating government agencies.

"While the centerpiece of the KKK implementation nationwide is to effect the total economic and political emancipation of the Filipino from the bondage of poverty, the Mindoro KKK program lacks the necessary force and enthusiasm from among the concerned line agencies," said Fidel C. Cabuena, provincial development officer of the Ministry of Local Government.

Quoting the joint memorandum-circular issued by the First Lady and MHS Minister Imelda R. Marcos, who is also the KKK secretary-general, and Local Government Minister Jose A. Roño, Cabuena said that "all political leaders and appointive government officials have been mandated and responsible for the implementation and monitoring of all KKK projects in the barangay, municipal, and provincial levels."

In a related development, Washington M. Basco, the KKK municipal action officer, blamed "red tape and buckpassing" as the main obstacles to the implementation of the KKK here.

Basco said that so far "a poor and unschooled applicant needs some 29 documents to go through some 13 offices for his papers to be processed and approved."

It was recalled that Jose P. Abaca, the MHS provincial action officer, was quoted as saying that "J. Roberto L. Ablang, the MHS regional action officer, pledged to approve, at least, three KKK projects a month starting from the towns of Pinamalayan, Calapan, Gloria, Bansud, Naujan, and Puerto Galera."

Abaca also identified the KKK projects supposed to be approved last May as "ring net, Naujan town, P409,594; Juliusm Integrated Agri-livestock project, Roxas town, P800,000; and fish cages, in Victoria, P91,000, and applied for by 10 proponents."

However, according to sources, the above-enumerated projects were "respectfully returned" from the MHS region in Manila bearing "no stamp of approval."

CSO: 4220/253

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